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As of 8 September 1988, the Chad section will henceforth be published in the Central Africa division of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

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LD0209130188 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Units of the "irreconcilable opposition" subjected Kabul International Airport to a "massive bombardment" with ground-to-ground rockets 1 September, TASS reported, adding the attack damaged depots and transport aircraft. Other rockets also hit residential districts of Kabul, sparking off fires, the agency noted. Kabul radio stated the shelling caused a fire at the airport and inflicted 13 casualties in residential areas of the capital.

Afghan aircraft had earlier penetrated some 80 km inside Pakistan to bomb villages near Peshawar, according to Islamabad radio, which noted that 1 person was killed and 11 wounded in the raid. Pakistan conveyed a "strong protest" to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad over this "unprovoked" attack, the radio added. AFP said the warplanes dropped bombs near an Afghan refugee camp, but added all the casualties were Pakistanis.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

IRNA reported that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati began talks 2 September with Jan Eliasson, Sweden's UN ambassador, who was nominated the previous day as UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative to continue the Geneva talks during the latter's absence.

Eliasson subsequently held a separate meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, INA revealed. Velayati disclosed earlier that Iran has replied to Perez de Cuellar's latest suggestions regarding the time frame for implementing Resolution 598, Tehran radio noted.

A 1 September KUNA report on the negotiations stated that Perez de Cuellar has drawn up a compromise formula aimed at breaking the deadlock. The plan reportedly provides for: a withdrawal of troops to the border that existed when the war began; Iranian acceptance of freedom of navigation in the Gulf; the establishment of a commission to examine technical aspects of dredging the Shatt al-'Arab; but no discussion for the moment of sovereignty over the waterway.

Reporting on alleged Iraqi cease-fire violations, Tehran radio accused the Iraqis of capturing 752 Iranian soldiers after the cease-fire went into effect. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of Iran's Armed Forces, warned in an interview with Tehran television that this case of "hostage-taking" may result in Iranian forces "wanting to retaliate somewhere."

The Iranians will respond to Iraqi violations by doing "exactly what the Iraqis have done," he said. For Iraq's part, Baghdad radio listed further alleged Iranian violations.

Regarding the flight of Kurdish refugees from northern Iraq, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced that the number of refugees crossing into Turkey has now reached around 60,000, according to ANATOLIA. IRNA reported that 900 Iraqi Kurdish families have taken asylum in Iran because of Iraqi military operations, adding that another group of refugees is on its way to Iran.

PLO Affairs

In a message to an international conference of nongovernmental organizations in Geneva, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat urged that occupied Palestinian territories be placed under UN supervision pending Israel's withdrawal, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported.

In Libya, 'Arafat said the PNC will convene at the end of September or in early October to discuss the possibility of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Meanwhile, the London MIDDLE EAST MIRROR published an interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in which he said the PLO is considering amending its 1968 Charter before proclaiming an independent "state," TANJUG noted.

As for Libya's efforts to arrange reconciliation talks among all the Palestinian factions, London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT said this attempt reached a "dead end" in light of the refusal of Colonel Sa'id Musa and Ahmad Jibril to meet with Fatah leaders in Tripoli.

In another development, MENA reported that Fatah reopened its office in Cairo.

Israel

Tamir Row—In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that "steps must be taken" against Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, over his remarks in the United States on the PLO. Clarifying what he said to a U.S. audience, Tamir told Jerusalem radio he had stressed that "for the Palestinians, the PLO is the leading movement" and "this must be recognized as a fact."

Reporting on Tamir's remarks in Washington and New York, THE JERUSALEM POST said he also confirmed that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with Jordan's King Husayn in London during April 1987.

Relations With Iraq—Jerusalem radio reported that the Israeli energy minister was scheduled to meet with the Iraqi oil minister in the United States but the Iraqis "canceled the meeting at the last minute." Iraq had initiated the meeting, which came as a surprise to Israel, the radio said.

However, an Iraqi source cited by INA said the whole story is "groundless" and part of the "lies" told by "the Zionist enemy," with which Iraq "will not accept bargaining in any circumstances."

Deportees—The defense establishment is considering the use of banishment for definite periods to tone down international criticism and allow the expulsion of many uprising leaders until calm has been restored, MA'ARIV reported.

Deportees would be allowed to return after a certain time on condition they had not been active in "terrorist" or "hostile" organizations. The paper disclosed that a list of over 1,000 prospective deportees has been drawn up.

Jordan

King Husayn held private talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria at the start of a 3-day visit to Egypt, MENA reported. The discussion covered issues of joint interest, Arab developments, and bilateral ties, Amman radio disclosed.

In another development, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held a "frank discussion" with Jordanian journalists 31 August, during which he emphasized the need to publish accurate reports and to avoid "sensationalism" and "unreliable reports" derived from "irresponsible sources," AL-DUSTUR reported.

One example of such "completely untrue" press reports cited by Al-Rifa'i was a story that Jordan is drawing up new maps in the wake of the disengagement from the West Bank.

Egypt-Libya

Responding to the harsh criticism of President Mubarak in Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's 31 August speech, an AL-AHRAM editorial cited by MENA stressed that no Egyptian can accept Al-Qadhdhafi's "obscene words and insults," which "made us sick."

The editorial, written by AL-AHRAM's chief editor, denied Al-Qadhdhafi's claims that Egypt and the United States are currently conducting joint naval maneuvers.

Libyan-Maltese Radio

A new joint Libyan-Maltese radio station called "Voice of the Mediterranean radio" began broadcasting in English and Arabic from Valletta 1 September.

The radio carried a statement by its Maltese managing director declaring it will seek to play a "big and effective" role through cultural, literary, and news programs and will try to strengthen historical ties between Libya and Malta.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Khalaf Views Palestinian Consultations

LD0109182288 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1722 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 1 (TANJUG)—The Palestinian National Council (PNC) has put off a session to carry out additional consultations on the foundations for a Palestinian state on the occupied West Bank.

These consultations will take place among Palestinians themselves as well as among Arabs and internationally, the number two man in the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), told the MIDDLE EAST MIRROR newspaper of London.

Iyad, one of the closest lieutenants of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, said that the PLO was considering changing the Palestinian organisation's charter of 1968 which negates the Israeli state.

Iyad said the PLO might adopt "amendments" to its political platform before proclaiming an independent Palestinian state.

By postponing the PNC session and announcing changes in the "Palestinian charter", the PLO is giving Palestinian factions time to iron out differences, according to observers here.

The leaders of two radical pro-Syrian groups—the Al-Fatah uprising of Colonel Abu Musa and the General Command of Ahmed Jibril—have turned down a reconciliation meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, which Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi is trying to arrange in Tripoli.

Accusing 'Arafat of being prepared to recognise Israel in exchange for a Palestinian state, both factions want to continue armed struggle against Israel until the fulfillment of the goals set forth in the charter.

These aims are the establishment of a democratic, secular state throughout the territory of ancient Palestine, including the area occupied by the present Jewish state.

Khalaf Announces 'Intensified Consultations'

LD0109204888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1907 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, Sept 1 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official said leaders of the major Palestinian organizations agreed at their intensive meetings here last week on an initiative related to the developments in the occupied land.

In statements to Tunisian magazine "ARAB MAGHREB", to be published tomorrow, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the Palestinian leaders decided to launch intensified consultations at all levels so as the initiative does not turn into a "jump in the air".

The new initiative will function as the mechanism for implementing the PLO's transitional platform of 1974 which called for establishing a Palestinian state on any part of the occupied territories that could be liberated or evicted by the Israeli occupation.

About the recognition of Isreal, Khalaf said "when Israel recognizes our Palestinian state, then we talk about recognition of Israel".

'Arafat Says PNC To Meet To Discuss Government

JN0209060088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] In Tripoli, Libya Yasir 'Arafat announced that the PNC will meet at the end of September or in early October to discuss the possibility of forming a Palestinian government.

'Arafat said nothing has been decided regarding the form or the legal status of such a government. However, he added, the PLO is now studying the formation of a government-in-exile or a provisional government.

In Amman Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC speaker, said Tunisia is prepared to host a Palestinian government-in exile.

'Arafat Asks UN Supervision for W. Bank, Gaza

JN0109192388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1741 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that the sectarian Syrian regime destroyed the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in implementation of a colonialist-Zionist scheme, which seeks to partition Lebanon and plunder its resources.

In a speech delivered on his behalf at the fifth international conference of nongovernmental organizations, which was inaugurated in Geneva yesterday, brother leader Abu 'Ammar added that the forces of darkness that destroyed the Palestinian camps in Lebanon cannot quell the spirit of resistance and confrontation characterizing our Palestinian people.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar affirmed that our valiant Palestinian people are struggling for the sake of establishing a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar called for placing the occupied Palestinian territories under UN supervision to pave the way for a Zionist troop withdrawal and to facilitate the convening of an international Mideast peace conference.

PLO's Sha'th on 'Government' Aims

PM0109134388 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Aug-6 Sep 88 p 11

[Unattributed interview with Dr Nabil Sha'th, 'adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat'; place, date not given]

[Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] Are there any PLO organizational structures inside the occupied territories capable of implementing 'Arafat's decision urging employees to continue their work there?

[Sha'th] 'Arafat's decision will not be implemented in a vacuum; there are structures via which the decision will be implemented.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are there differences over the political program to be presented to the PNC, which is expected to convene in the near future?

[Sha'th] The final form of the political program is subject to inter-Palestinian consultations, which are aimed at crystallizing a unified and Arab-backed stand which we can carry into the international arena. We are searching for the best formula that emphasizes acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does acceptance of Resolution 181 not mean eliminating the Palestine dream, accepting only part of it, and abolishing a charter that stipulates a state on the entire soil?

[Sha'th] We are using Resolution 181 merely as basis for establishing a state. We are declaring political stands within the framework of an interim working plan for establishing a Palestinian state on a part of Palestinian soil. The program concerns the establishment of a Palestinian state on a part and not on all the national soil. Thus, the charter still stands.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Isn't there a duality between the declared program and the charter?

[Sha'th] The government will declare its program in stages. And there are no regulations in provisional governments and interim political programs.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this mean that the idea of establishing a state on the entire soil has not been canceled?

[Sha'th] Until now Israel has not abandoned its ambitions, represented by the phrase "from the Nile to the Euphrates." We are not required to abandon our belief in a full Palestinian unity or to become submissive.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this not constitute an obstacle in the way of U.S. recognition?

[Sha'th] The Americans want a lot. And we are not ready to make concessions. In Cairo, we refused to meet with Murphy when he refused to meet two of the six figures presented by the PLO.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You have made contacts regarding recognition of a provisional government or a Palestinian state. Have there been any problems in this regard?

[Sha'th] The true problem lies with some Western European states which can be divided into three categories: first, Greece, Vienna [as published], Italy, and Spain, with which there is no problem regarding their recognition. Second, France, whose recognition is subject to the announcement of the political program. Other states will follow it in respect of recognition. As for the third, it comprises Holland, Belgium, and Britain, whose recognition is difficult to secure; but we are continuing our endeavors.

[AL-MAJALLAH] After the failure of the Murphy meeting and the success of the Carter meeting, do you see an official Palestinian-U.S. meeting being held in the near future?

[Sha'th] When the Americans feel that nothing is threatening their interests they make no concessions. The situation has changed: There is an uprising in the occupied territories, there is the Iraqi victory in the Gulf war, the strategic threat to Israel, the pressing international situation, and the need for a solution to regional problems. These matters have changed the balance in favor of the Palestinian cause. That is why I believe that a high-level meeting between the U.S. Administration and the PLO will be held next year.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How do you assess the Carter-Al-Hasan meeting?

[Sha'th] The meeting was a step against the attempts aimed at killing the Palestinian identity and describing it as terrorist. And Carter, as a Democratic leader, has given the next U.S. administration, if it is Democratic, support to deal with the PLO.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this mean that you are banking on a Democratic administration?

[Sha'th] The Republican Party is an ally of Israel. For this reason, developments within the Democratic Party make its candidate relatively better than the Republican candidate. Besides, I believe that a Democratic candidate who is under some pressure is relatively better than a Republican candidate.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you believe the U.S. position will change?

[Sha'th] Policies do change but interests do not. The Arab states have eliminated the Iranian threat, and they must now exert pressure on the U.S. position in order to get what they want.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you not believe that the presence of a strong Arab lobby in the United States has an effect in this regard?

[Sha'th] There is an Arab role translating pressures into endeavors, thus creating facts. The uprising is a weapon in the hands of the Arabs in the United States via which they can influence public opinion.

'Legitimate' Resolutions Said Basis for State

NC0109154488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, 1 Sep (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has announced that the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state will be based on all the internationally legitimate resolutions which followed the 1947 partition resolution, and not only UN Resolution 181.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Hurani remarked that among these UN resolutions which are currently under discussion in expanded Palestinian meetings are Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 194 from 1949, which pertains to the Palestinian 'refugees' repatriation or compensation. He added that a dialogue is being conducted on how top utilize these resolutions and bring them into the core of the Palestinian stand.

The MENA correspondent has also learned that the PLO Executive Committee will resume its meetings on 10 September to continue its discussion of the PLO's military options in the coming stage. Representatives of the Palestinian factions are due to attend these meetings.

At the same time, the political and legal committee under the chairmanship of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is continuing its meetings to draft a proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and form a government-in-exile or a provisional government.

He said that the views of the Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territories are being sought with regard to the requirements of the coming stage. He added that consultations are also taking place with Arab, European, and socialist bloc countries, foremost of which is the USSR.

PLO's Rabbuh Looks Ahead to PNC Session

PM3108121188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "'Abd Rabbuh Tells His Side of Damascus Story"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has explained to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the circumstances that led to the Syrian authorities' delaying his departure from Damascus airport last Friday for 48 hours for reasons described as "administrative." He also gave a clear idea about political measures the PLO is now studying in preparation for declaring a provisional government and a political program aimed at establishing an independent Palestinian state.

In a telephone interview given from his office in Tunis, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that he was preparing to leave Damascus International Airport last Friday aboard a GDR airliner en route to Berlin and then Tunis to participate in PLO Executive Committee meetings, but security authorities at Damascus airport did not allow him to depart "for administrative reasons." So he had to stay at his home in the Syrian capital.

The Executive Committee member said that when he was finally allowed to leave Damascus he was told that the decision not to allow him to depart last Friday was the result of an "administrative defect."

Asked if this had anything to do with the reports of his contacts to persuade the factions of the Damascus-based [Palestine National] Salvation Front to participate in the meetings to be held in Libya, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that his 1-day visit to Damascus was a private visit and had nothing to do with talks with any Palestinian or non-Palestinian groups in the Syrian capital.

On the PLO's relationship with the Syrian leadership 'Abd Rabbuh said that he still hopes that cordial relations and a natural dialogue will be established between the two sides on the basis of resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Algiers, which laid the correct foundation for a just solution in the region. He emphasized the need for coordination among the confrontation forces in order to back the valiant uprising in the occupied territories and provide all means and resources to enhance the PLO's potential at various Arab and international levels with a view to confronting Zionist terrorism against our people in the occupied territories.

He added that the issues to be discussed at the emergency PNC session will "deal with the political program which we will present to the world and which confirms that we seek peace on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Algiers summit, with our people's full right to build their own independent state on their own national soil. In addition, the provisional government and its circumstances will also be discussed."

Regarding the date and venue of the PNC session, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said: The session will be held in the second half of September. As for its venue, it has not yet been

determined, although a number of invitations have been received from fraternal states, which have offered to host the council's emergency session.

Answering a question about what measures the PLO is intending to take under the continuing uprising and Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, he disclosed that the PLO is in the process of studying a clear and specific political program aimed at strengthening the uprising and boosting its prospects of winning victories. It is also studying and discussing new political programs aimed at establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian leadership will continue to hold its meetings at both Executive Committee and faction general secretary level to discuss the elements of the new political program which will be presented to the PNC.

Gaza Leader Examines Recognition Questions

PM3108124788 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 26 Aug 88 p 31

[Interview with Fayiz Abu Rahmah, "prominent Palestinian figure in Gaza," by "A.'A" in Cairo; date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Is it possible for us to know details of the failure of the meeting between Murphy and the Palestinian delegation?

Abu Rahmah: I was on a private visit to Cairo and the new move took place when I was there. I did not come specially for that meeting. The PLO presented six names. Murphy objected to Akram Haniyah and Nabil Sha'th, claiming that they were from the PLO, which Washington does not deal with. He refused to meet the delegation. After a meeting at the Foreign Ministry Murphy annouced that the meeting was canceled. U.S. policy is based on not recognizing the PLO unless it responds to the U.S. conditions imposed by Kissinger in 1975, namely recognizing Israel and Resolution 242 as well as renouncing violence.

AL-HAWADITH: We believed that the United States was serious in its desire to convene the meeting, so its quick retreat came as a surprise.

Abu Rahmah: I believe that the refusal was premeditated, and was decided in consultation with the U.S. secretary of state and Murphy. And if it so happened that the Americans first agreed and then retreated, that did not mean that they were exposed to pressures opposing the convening of such a meeting.

AL-HAWADITH: Pressures from which side?

Abu Rahmah: It is Israel alone which can pressure the United States. Since 1970 it has maintained a firm policy, namely not to deal with the PLO. And Shultz sets conditions that are difficult to meet.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that 'Arafat's acceptance of the Cairo declaration, namely to confine struggle actions to the occupied territories, means the adandonment of violence?

Abu Rahmah: They want the PLO to become a Gandhian organization, exercising nothing but nonviolence; not just renouncing violence outside the occupied territories, but actually applying this in the other areas. During negotiations in Amman in 1986 Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: I am ready to halt the violence once an international conference commences.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the condition of recognizing Israel?

Abu Rahmah: Who needs recognition? It is we Palestinians who need to be recognized as a people who have rights, to self-determination, and to live in peace and security. I believe that if recognition is a must, it must be both mutual and simultaneous. I believe that the place and the time for it is at an international conference.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that Bassam Abu Sharif's document contains something like recognition of Israel and a response to the U.S. condition?

Abu Rahmah: They want 'Arafat's endorsement on it, especially after Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] opposed it. What Bassam Abu Sharif came up with was logical regardless of some phrases which some parties have opposed.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the condition concerning recognition of Resolution 242?

Abu Rahmah: The PLO recognized the resolution within the framework of its recognition of all UN resolutions provided that the United States issues an undertaking guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. There was a Franco-Egyptian initiative to cover the shortcomings in resolution 242. Had that initiative succeeded, we would not have experienced all these complications.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you explain Whitehead's statements regarding the possibility of holding dialogue with the Palestinians and then Murphy's retreat from a meeting with them?

Abu Rahmah: I believe that the basis of the U.S. stand is firm and has not changed. This is regardless of the beautiful statements made which might look like concessions on the American side. Even Whitehead's statements reflected a possibility of holding negotiations with the Palestinians, but that did not assume the form of a decision. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some people are talking about a scenario in which the uprising command declares a Palestinian government and then the upcoming PNC session backs it.

Abu Rahmah: The uprising command is not separated from the PLO. It sees the PLO as the legitimate leadership, not an alternative to it. So the uprising command will not adopt any initiative in isolation from the legitimate leadership. In practice, how can the uprising command form a government in the occupied territories, and how can it perform its duties? I believe that the government issue is left to the PNC and must be coordinated between those who are inside and those who are outside. It is not the job of insiders alone. The body that can make the announcement is the PLO. And the uprising command is not working in isolation from the PLO.

Cairo Aids PLO in Devising State Organs

PM3108150788 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Aug 88 pp 13, 14

[Ihsan Bakr report: "Cairo Helps PLO Prepare for Proclamation of State"]

[Excerpts] A few weeks before King Husayn's surprising and sudden measures were announced to Arab and world capitals, severing administrative and legal ties between the West Bank and Jordan, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat was actually holding, in complete secrecy, direct and indirect consultations and contacts with a number of influential Arab and international figures to find an answer to the following question:

Now, more than 6 months since the eruption of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, how can we move out of the circle of daily clashes with stones and Molotov cocktails against the Israeli occupation into the circle of political initiatives via a large-scale diplomatic battle of the Palestinian side's making? How can we escape the dilemma which consists in the demand that PLO recognize Israel as a precondition for entering into negotiations on a new initiative urging the international community to recognize a state for a people whose territories are usurped by Israel?

Scores of questions were raised by Yasir 'Arafat personally and by his Fatah envoys during their meetings in Arab capitals.

It is no secret that a number of prominent politicians (Egyptians and Arabs) helped answer these questions. [passage omitted]

Nor is it a secret that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the chief of Egyptian diplomacy, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to President Husni Mubarak, formed specialized committees within the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to reopen all the files on the Palestinian problem from the 1948 disaster and the issue of the partition resolution through the 1976 defeat and the issue of Security Council Resolution 242.

I recall that during my recent meeting with Fatah strong man, Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf)—who had just returned from a meeting with the Arab lawyers congress after explaining the dimensions of the uprising—he told me: We are now facing a major challenge. The world is demanding we recognize Israel, and the uprising has created a new reality on the ground and inside the Israeli entity as well as at the level of world public opinion. We must shoulder the responsibility in full. [passage omitted]

If it is true—and it is—that the Jordanian decision came as a surprise to everyone including the Palestinian leadership, I am convinced that the person who was expecting such a step more than any of the Palestinian leaders was Yasir 'Arafat himself. I am not claiming that he knew of the Jordanian decision beforehand, because the timing came as a surprise, but it is most likely that the Palestinian leader did not rule out any of his calculations.

He constantly reiterated one sentence to me: The uprising was created to stay, to continue; we will not allow any attempt to liquidate or abort it. Our duty is to develop it into escalating phases until a state is established. [passage omitted]

According to responsible sources in Cairo, the moment King Husayn's decisions were announced on 31 July Egypt was anxious not to let the Jordanian measure severing ties with the West Bank lead to the severance or freezing of, or tension in relations between Jordan and the PLO. [passage omitted]

A government-in-exile seems to disturb everyone. No one wants it. So, let it be a provisional government. But on what basis?

Under the international accord between the two superpowers everyone holds the conviction that the Soviet Union, the Palestinians' strong friend, will not allow any regional problem, even the Palestinian problem, to jeopardize its accord with the United States. Is this a change in the Soviet position? Yes, a change has occurred in the Soviet position, but it cannot be considered a coup in Soviet foreign policy, since Moscow favors an effective international conference and supports the right to self-determination and a Palestinian state; it also backs the need to recognize the Israeli state.

Recognition of Israel seems to be a problem for them all, and that is their right, since how can a people whose lands have been usurped be requested to recognize the occupying state as a precondition for entering into negotiations? All organizations call for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, but how? [passage omitted]

The question now is: What steps will be taken next?

According to the latest information, the situation from now until the PNC emergency session is held is as follows:

The Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan has laid down solid foundations for understanding between Jordan and the PLO; and contacts between the two sides will continue;

Egypt has decided to place its political, diplomatic, and legal capabilities at the service of the PLO. Committees comprising high-level experts have actually begun their work and will submit the results of their studies to Yasir 'Arafat;

Instructions will be issued to all Egyptian diplomatic missions abroad to launch a large-scale campaign to rally support for the next Palestinian steps, which embody Palestinian struggle and the right to self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state;

It is by no means unlikely that Yasir 'Arafat will raise the idea of establishing an independent Palestinian state based on the partition resolution in his expected speech to the European Parliament in mid-September in Strasbourg;

The PNC, convening next month in Algiers, will be transformed into a Palestinian parliament comprising figures from the occupied territories; and the PLO offices abroad will be considered embassies for the new Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

PLO Radio Calls for Independent State

JN3008194788 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1738 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Station commentary: "The Seizure of Independence Is the Only Entrance to Genuine Peace"]

[Text] O brothers, O sons of our great Palestinian people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The enemies of Palestinian independence are also the enemies of stability, peace, and tranquillity in this part of the world, that is, the Middle East. Despite these enemies' claims about their imaginary strength to impose a fait accompli, their encroachment on the Palestinian people's rights, and their laying down obstacles to the independence of the Palestinian people and their right to an independent state on their national soil; and despite these enemies' conspiracies, alliances, and suspect deals, the shining fact remains that these Palestinian rights and cause are the interactive factor. Without this factor, unrest and war will prevail in this very vital part of the world.

If the Zionist entity, its allies, agents, and those revolving in its orbit propagated in the past that the interlinking of parties prevented the emergence of a genuine formula to achieve peace through realizing the Palestinian people's rights, in recent years the PLO, the leader of the Palestinian people's struggle and their sole, legitimate representative, has been able to uproot these Zionist propagations by entrenching the following constants:

1. The absolute termination of any possibility of destroying the PLO or achieving any acceptable formula without the PLO's prior approval. All attempts toward this end are doomed to failure.

2. The PLO is the sole side that leads, represents, and expresses the higher interests of the Palestinian people. [passage indistinct] The search for alternatives to the PLO has failed and ended tragically. Although these attempts have hurt our people, yet they have caused catastrophe to others.

3. The only effective, comprehensive, logical, and just political option is Palestinian. Any party's attempts to search for other options, revive dead ones, or invigorate ways of bypassing [the Palestinian option] are illusions and an adherence to the policy of eruption in the region.

4. The policy of some parties, which worked hard to resolve the exacerbating local and regional problems at the expense of the Palestinian issue, has retreated. The makers of these adolescent policies have understood that our people took the initiative in their cause, and the conflict has been defined as Palestinian-Zionist. Those who cannot support the Palestinian struggle cannot exploit this struggle to resolve their internal problems.

5. All efforts and waves of the Palestinian struggle have been concentrated on one basis, that is, the establishment of a national Palestinian authority, represented by an independent Palestinian state, and on one entrance—that is, the PLO. Nothing more, nothing less. The Zionist attempts to escape this fact might double the pain but will not change the matter.

In light of this, the international community—through its institutions, structures, organizations, governments, and countries—is called upon to understand further these constants. The international community should employ more efforts to support Palestinian independence, which has been further crystalized through the continuation, escalation, and expansion of the blessed heroic uprising of our people, which is moving vigorously toward the 10th month. Nobody can escape from the meanings of this miracle.

If the international community wants to pacify regional conflicts and control the problems that are threatening a large conflagration, the seriousness of such a trend will appear through dealing with the Palestinian topic and resolving this issue by entrenching Palestinian independence and establishing an independent Palestinian state. This is a major test for international legitimacy and a decisive test for any talk on peace. Revolution until victory.

Chad

Libyan 'Fighter Planes' Violate Airspace 31 Aug

AB0109191888 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Here is a message that has just reached us: At 0700 [0600 GMT] yesterday morning, the Libyan Air Force overflew the (Oumou) area in the Tibesti region. Despite the efforts of the Chadian authorities to restore peace between Tripoli and Ndjamena, and in spite of the cease-fire established by the OAU, the Libyan Armed Forces continue incessantly with their provocations. Fighter planes have once again violated Chad's airspace.

Ministerial Cadres Warned of 'Libyan Challenge'

AB0100083700 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The face-to-face meeting of politicians and public servants of the 12 ministries has just ended. It should be recalled that this is the third consecutive time that national political experts have held frank discussions with representatives of the ministries. Let us listen to the conclusions of the debates drawn by Comrade El Hadj Djime Dougou [member of UNIR Central Committee].

[Begin recording] Comrade militants, dear cadres: Here we are at the conclusion of our meetings. Permit me first of all on behalf of the founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, and on behalf of the members of the awareness commission present, to thank you for your active participation and your very fruitful contributions to the debates characterized by frank and sincere speeches.

We have told each other some truths, and I can tell you it is only in this way that we can correct each other, make up for our shortcomings, and set out again on a healthier and more solid basis toward attaining better results in the future.

Comrade militants, dear cadres, the aim of these meetings, as you are aware, is to discuss frankly with you and to search together with you, for the deep-rooted causes of the demobilization, political aloofness, and indifference of public servants toward the movement. You have of course given your reasons, of which we have taken note. Nevertheless, it is necessary to tell you that by convening this meeting, the UNIR Central Committee has proven that the improvement of the Chadian people's living conditions is one of its principal concerns, and that Chadian public servants have a very important role to play in it through their participation and their contribution. [passage omitted]

Some (?writings) have vehemently attacked the Central Committee, but I can tell you its mission in its 4 years of existence has been positive. National reconciliation, the unity of the sons of Chad, peace, economic revival, the restoration of the public service, and so forth, are indeed the fruit of the work of the Central Committee under the leadership of the guide of the Chadian revolution, Comrade Hissein Habre. [applause] [passage omitted]

Under the Third Republic, with the UNIR, and under the great wisdom of Comrade Hissein Habre, Chadians have recovered their freedom. The wind of peace is blowing throughout the national territory. And it is up to us now, sons and daughters of Chad, to consolidate these gains. This can be done with UNIR, the ideal framework for national unity. Let us reject this unwholesome mentality that is capable of dividing us.

Let us close ranks within UNIR, our great unifying movement, to meet the Libyan challenge so that at last we can concentrate on the socioeconomic development of our dear country. Dear public servants, you are strongly requested to participate even more in the activities of the government and the UNIR. In short, you are being called upon to always remain in the vanguard of the struggle of the Chadian people for their self-realization in freedom, independence, and fullnes of their sovereignty. I thank you. [end recording]

Egypt

AL-AHRAM Response to Al-Qadhdhafi Speech Noted

NC0209081488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—In today's issue, AL-AHRAM reacts to the speech delivered by Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi last night [as received] in which he lashed out at the Arab people and their leaders and singled out Egypt with his scorching remarks.

Under the title "AL-AHRAM Has This To Say," Ibrahim Nafi', the paper's chief editor, writes: In his speech which the Libyan colonel made the day before yesterday, he took his rhetoric to new heights of vitriol, attacking the Arab people, their leader and especially, Egypt with a vehemence which can only suggest that Al-Qadhdhafi is once again out to promote one more of his suspect ideas.

The major share of Al-Qadhdhafi's abuse was directed at Egypt, its leader, the PLO, its leader, and Sudan. It seems, from a simple understanding of the facts of current Arab politics, that what is driving Al-Qadhdhafi mad and what has awakened in his sick mind the innate hatred which he nurses against the Arab people is the fact that the Arab people are restoring their strength and unity and are recovering their ability to work together and move in the right direction.

This restored sense of Arab solidarity has come about in the absence of Al-Qadhdhafi and those like him. It actually took place in spite of Al-Qadhdhafi's dedicated efforts to foment sedition, sow doubts, and implant his agents in the Arab world.

What has particularly unnerved Al-Qadhdhafi is the fact that the heartland of the Arab world—Egypt and its trustworthy leaders—is once again emerging as the center of unified Arab action. This is why Al-Qadhdhafi has gone back to his dubious endeavors. This is why he is attacking Egypt, its people, and its leaders. This is why he insults brotherly Sudan, the PLO, and the rest of the Arab countries and leaders. He is doing this because Sudan is consolidating its durable ties with Egypt. It provokes him to see the PLO seeking stronger ties with Egypt, a country with considerable political and cultural weight in the region and the world, a country whose leader is working tirelessly on the Arab and international levels for the Palestinian cause.

Al-Qadhdhafi has been maddened and driven wild and those who control him from behind the scenes have been prompted to embark on this vitriolic campaign against Egypt and its national leaders because Egypt is forcefully regaining its stature, the Arabs are once again capable of action and triumph thanks to the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and the heroism of the Iraqi people, and Arab solidarity is alive again, thanks to the Egyptian leaders' efforts to revive and boost it.

AL-AHRAM says that Al-Qadhdhafi does not want our people to attain solidarity. Despite all his ravings about unity, which actually harm the cause of unity, Al-Qadhdhafi does not want to see Egypt and the Arabs back together. He does not want Sudan in order to block Sudan's chances of improving its ties with Egypt.

Al-Qadhdhafi has assigned himself the role of dividing the Arab nation to the point of oblivion. He wants to force the people of Egypt to abandon their chosen pan-Arabism and opt instead for a narrower brand of nationalism. The Egyptians, however, who made a conscientious choice of their pan-Arab politics, who made sacrifices for the Arab cause and never complained of their burdens, are going to continue working for their hope, for a unified Arab people with strong political, economic, and cultural ties, for a nation that stands in strength among other strong and united nations, among the nations who know their destiny, who are aware of their strong points and of the basis of their revival.

AL-AHRAM, Nafi' writes, has a quick response to the lies and filth which made up the bulk of Al-Qadhdhafi's speech. Al-Qadhdhafi claimed that Egypt and the United States are conducting joint naval maneuvers between Alexandria and Tubruq. The whole world knows that there are no maneuvers taking place between the Egyptian and U.S. Navies in the Mediterranean. If such maneuvers were taking place, Egypt would have announced them through its media, as it always does. Egypt never makes a secret of these maneuvers and it conducts them in full view of the whole world.

We are not saying this to allay the fears of the colonel, or even to expose his lies. We are saying this to reassure the Libyan people and erase any fears which Al-Qadhdhafi may have implanted in them. The Egyptian people and their leaders are eager to see every Arab nation living in peace and to see stability and security taking hold in every Arab country.

Ibrahim Nafi' goes on to say that Col Al-Qadhdhafi has stated that a million Libyans carry arms and are deployed on Libya's coasts to confront aggression. We ask him: Where are the rest of the Libyan people? The colonel has executed a large number of Libyans and forced many others to disperse and seek exile. He then dispatched executioners and terrorist squads all over the world to assassinate those Libyans. Al-Qadhdhafi, according to Nafi', says he wanted to reopen the borders with Egypt and that Egypt turned down his request. We tell him that he wanted to reopen the borders to export destruction, killing, and ruination to Egypt.

We tell Al-Qadhdhafi that if he sends 100 aircraft to Egyptian airports every day, Egypt will welcome the passengers with all fraternal love. They will see what the Egyptian people have accomplished on their land. The Libyan passengers will return to their country after comparing the standard of living in Egypt, which has both limited resources and a population 25 times greater than that of Libya, with the standard of living of Libyans under the regime of Al-Qadhdhafi. They surely will draw the conclusion that they live under a canopy of deception, illusion, and continued anesthetization exercised by a mad ruler who does not want to open the gates of his country lest his people be shocked by the truth.

Ibrahim Nafi' continues: We challenge you to present an accurate budget telling your people about the extent of their resources and how these resources are being used. How great is your production of basic items and how much do you import? How big are your debts and how will you repay them? And what are the burdens that will be carried by the oppressed Libyan people?

Nafi' goes on to say that according to Col Al-Qadhdahfi, Yasir 'Arafat came to Egypt to kiss the hands of Mubarak. We tell him that the relationship between Mubarak—Arab man, Arab fighter, and Arab leader—and Yasir 'Arafat—Arab leader, man, and fighter—is not what Al-Qadhdhafi imagines and would like to think. The relationship between the two leaders is based on Arab brotherhood and the Arab struggle for freedom and dignity.

The editor in chief of AL-AHRAM points out that the Palestinian leaders, who deal with world changes in a realistic fashion and on the basis of the detente between the two superpowers, have again extended their hands to King Husayn. They came to Egypt to benefit from Egypt's experience and knowledge, in order to realize the aspirations of the Palestinian people inside the occupied land, who have been subjected for long years to the hegemony of the occupation forces.

Nafi' goes on to say that the Palestinian leaders adopted a unified stand accepted by the world because this will restore their legitimate rights to the Palestinians, foremost being their right to establish an independent state of their own. This is a national stand. The era of slogans and one-upmanhip is over. Those who squandered the Palestinian cause, like Al-Qadhdhafi and his ilk who brought misfortunes to our nation, have no role to play. There is no place for their empty words and empty drums in this world, which believes in logic and rationalism.

Nafi' adds: The Libyan ruler has once again adopted a tone which seeks to sow sedition between the Egyptian opposition and the rest of the Egyptian people. Either out of ignorance or ill will, he disregarded the democratic structure and the nature of the Egyptian people. He has forgotten that all forces, whether opposition or not, are pure national forces who will not under any circumstances accept Al-Qadhdhafi's obscene words and insults to Egypt or its legitimate leader. After all, these forces are Egyptians who reject such cheap insults to their country. Al-Qadhdhafi's claim is merely part of his previous abortive attempts. All his attempts will fail, just like the attempts of those like him who know nothing about the nature of the great Egyptian people.

The obscene words which the Libyan colonel used about the person of Egypt's leader and president made us sick. However, despite our profound love for this man and leader and despite our faith in his noble character and unlimited patience in the face of the excesses of others, we have but to remain silent about obscene words of this kind and refrain from responding to such cheap allegations. Husni Mubarak has asked us as a principle not to answer abuse with abuse and to be vigilant and respect Egypt and its role which has been charted by history and fate and Arab traditions and principles.

King Husayn, Mubarak Hold Alexandria Talks 1 Sep
JN0209060688 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text) His majesty the king and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held a closed-door meeting in Alexandria yesterday immediately upon his majesty's arrival in the Mediterranean coastal city.

The two leaders discussed issues of joint interest, developments in the Arab world, and ties between Jordan and Egypt. His majesty is accompanied on the visit by an official delegation comprising the prime minister, the chief chamberlain, and the army's commander in chief.

Late yesterday, their majesties the king and Queen Nur were guests of honor at a ceremony held by Victoria College in the city on the 85th anniversary of its establishment. Their majesties were received upon arrival at the ceremony site by a number of veteran graduates. His majesty the king graduated from the same college in 1954.

Energy, Electricity Protocol Signed With Jordan
NC0109124088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Jordan signed a protocol on technical cooperation in electricity and energy today. The protocol was signed at the conclusion of official bilateral talks, led by Eng Mahir Abazah, Egypt's minister of electricity and energy, and Jordan's energy minister, Hisham al-Khatib.

Under the terms of the protocol, the two countries will strengthen their technical cooperation, particularly with regard to the linking of their electricity grids. They are to exchange expertise and information with regard to maritime research needed for the installation of an underwater cable across the 'Aqabah Gulf between the two countries. An on-site examination of the proposed course for the cable will be conducted in cooperation with a French firm of experts.

According to the protocol, the two countries will hold talks with the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development arrangements for the financing of the linking project. This wil be done in light of the fact that link-up of the electricity networks of the two countries could serve as a prototype for similar links among the networks of Arab countries on the one hand and among these networks and Europe on the other.

As for local manufacturing of electrical equipment, the protocol urges closer cooperation in the manufacture of transformers, meters, and distribution boards. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Culture Minister Arrives in Cairo
NC0109060888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 31 Aug 88

(Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Jordanian Culture Minister Dr Muhammad al-Hammuri arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt expected to last for a few days. His visit is in response to an invitation from Culture Minister Faruq Husni, who was at the airport to receive him.

In an arrival statement, the Jordanian minister said that during his visit he will hold talks with Faruq Husni on the aspects of cooperation between the two countries in various cultural fields. He said that purpose of his visit is to acquaint himself with the Egyptian Culture Ministry's various organizations and departments, in view of their long experience in various cultural activities, and to utilize this experience in the Jordanian Culture Ministry, which is new and in the organizational stage.

New Israeli Proposal on Tabah Said Considered

PM0109124388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 88 p 3

[Unattributed report: "New Israeli Attempt To Resolve Tabah Problem Amicably"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the United States last week made new contacts with Egypt regarding Israeli proposals for a solution outside arbitration to the Tabah problem.

The new Israeli proposals include an exchange of letters by Egypt and Israel in which each party undertakes to provide the other with tourist facilities if a ruling is issued in its favor, provided that the United States guarantees the implementation of these mutual commitments. This comes after Egypt refused to sign a separate agreement with Israel over such facilities.

The international arbitration tribunal today will hold its final procedural session in preparation for issuing its ruling on Tabah.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the evidence, records, and documents Egypt has submitted confirm Egypt's inalienable right to Tabah, that is, legally, historically, and geographically.

At the same time, diplomatic sources in Cairo emphasize that Israel's implementation of the arbitration panel's decision would help bolster peace efforts.

Israeli Measures Against Palestinians Condemned

NC0209040288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Under the headline "The Day of Reckoning Will Not Be Far Away," AL-AKHBAR newspaper states that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's admission that the Tel Aviv authorities have detained 18,000 Palestinians during the 9-month-long uprising, a rate of 2,000 a month, means that every Palestinian family in the occupied Arab territory, whose population is estimated at 750,000, has a member detained in Israeli lockups.

In its Friday editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that Rabin forgets or pretends to forget to say that the entire territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has become a huge jail that includes thousands of people whose wretched luck forces them to live under the most vile and despicable occupation. The paper asserts that the Israeli military authorities have turned the territory they control by force into large detention camps ruled by a group of terrorists lacking any human feelings. With this type of immoral behavior Israel has even gone beyond the methods that the Jews claimed Nazi Germany used against them during World War II.

AL-AKHBAR notes that Israel can continue to detain thousands of the sons of occupied Palestine, particularly since life in its detention camps is not much worse than in the territory that is exposed every day and even every hour to incessant aggression and brutality. Israel, however, will not succeed in silencing the resounding voices demanding freedom.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR says if Israeli leaders believe they are secure and will not be called to account for the crimes which they insist on committing against the Palestinian people, they are living in a world of illusion. The day will come, and it may not be far, when they will pay the price for their crimes that the world conscience will not forget. God takes his time but does not forget.

Iranian Plan for Improved Relations Viewed

PM0109123988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Caution Toward Iran's Attempts To Resume Relations"]

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that Iran has submitted, via a Gulf state, a plan for improving Egyptian-Iranian relations in preparation for the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Diplomatic reports in Cairo have revealed that Egypt has informed some Arab states of its fear that Iran's objective in resuming diplomatic relations could be to gain an opportunity to implement its plan aimed at exporting Khomeynist ideas to Egypt and establishing bridges for dialogues with some extremist forces inside Egypt.

At the same level, Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iranian plan includes the return of the Iranian charge d'affaires to Egypt and the appointment of a senior Iranian diplomat to that position instead of Ambassador Mahmud Muhtada, whom the Egyptian Government expelled. This is in addition to the return of the Egyptian charge d'affaires to Tehran and the resumption of air flights between Cairo and Tehran.

The sources added that the Iranians requested an agreement on a timetable for the implementation of these steps coinciding with the Iran's program for the release of Egyptian POW's detained in Iran.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr Interviewed

JN0109204388 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 31 Aug 88 p 3

[By Muhammad Shakir]

[Excerpts] I went to see Interior Minister Zaki Badr convinced that the man is perceived differently by different people, the diverse images having been painted variously by opposition papers, national papers, and his television appearances as well as Arab newspaper interviews. [passage omitted]

Surprisingly, he impressed me as a calm, kind- hearted man with a sense of humor, and, as the saying goes, wearing his heart on his sleeve. I found him to be a sedate person, not to be easily roused to anger, the heavy burden of responsibility he shoulders notwithstanding. Zaki Badr is a clear man who comes straight to the point, does not mince his words, and means what he says.

Fittingly, our dialogue opened with the prisoner escape. He said: I have always been truthful and honest with myself. I have been known to approach problems and issues in the same spirit of truthfulness and candor. I will therefore discuss the recurrent prisoner escapes with the utmost frankness.

Zaki Badr told AL-AKHBAR: Frankly speaking, the prison system has not changed a bit since the days when Haydar Pasha was director of prison services. A year and a half ago, I took stock of the system as an institution dispensing justice on behalf of society. I set about formulating a complete plan and perception to bring prisons in line with the nature of crime. We have since been drawing up programs to streamline the service.

Naturally, results cannot be felt overnight, since the overhaul will have to include facilities, staff, and equipment. In other words, the prison system is not a public park or hotel. Prisons are supervised places of detention under judiciary court rulings. It would be wrong to think that talk about prisons has been prompted by recent cases of escape both regarding the thief or the drug smuggler. It is about the public security policy, and not a reaction to an emergency. [passage omitted]

I said to him: But there is a climate of opinion that the escapes from prison were due to blunders rather than minor mistakes.

The minister said: Frankly speaking, I do not deny that there is something very wrong with the system. These cases have come to light, but the problem has also to do with the prisons themselves. Prison conditions are terrible. It is no exagggeration to say that prisons have spawned drug addiction and money-related crimes involving prison guards themselves. I took a determined stand on this phenomenon, since in my opinion, it is a gateway to corruption. Guards are subjected to a strict regime of scrutiny. All offending guards have been sent to court or fired. All this has been taking place within the framework of the prison reform plan. It has not been in response to a single incident. It is more in the nature of a strategy and future planning.

Prisons are not five-star hotels. Prisons do not belong in the midst of residential concentrations. Movement inside prisons must be monitored electronically and on television screens. Prisons should have modern facilities to monitor inmates. Communication apparatuses must be upgraded as must be the standard of the guards. Prisons must be updated to ensure efficency of officers and other staff. More frankly, prisons are not havens for slackers; prisoners should be made to engage in agriculture and turn out dairy products. There are six prisons being built outside residential areas.

Zaki Badr reverted to the issue of terrorism, calling it organized terror. Spontaneously he said: I have just returned from a visit to Qina, where 15 pharmacies have been burned because of religion. These are telltale signs. Do we leave sectarian sedition unchecked? Frankly speaking, I am at my most cruel on that score, but within the bounds of the law. There were calls in the past that we work to dull the edge of these people's anger. Frankly speaking, I am not one to handle any terrorist phenomenon with kindness. This is crime. Decisively he added: I would never be kind to a criminal, not even if he were my son. [passage omitted]

Zaki Badr said: I was said to have issued blank arrest warrants to be filled in. The arrest of a person must go through a series of measures and committees. They are legal, not administrative, committees. It is a long process, and I have to sign the arrest order. [passage omitted]

What has Zaki Badr to say about terrorism?

He commented: There is no denying that the Islamic groups and the Muslim Brotherhood alike have contacts with Iran, which exports terror to the Muslim world. Egypt and Saudi Arabia probably top the list of their targets. Part of their effort to control things has been through capital investment firms. [passage omitted]

The point I want to make is: Al-Hudaybi and Sayf al-Islam and the rest of the Muslim Brotherhood would have been allowed their say only in the era of President Mubarak. The organizations are clusterlike. Most of them were on the run from Egypt. Survivors of Hell and other groups seek, among other things, to gain control of the economy. Admittedly, some of them have infiltrated the government bureaucracy. [passage omitted]

Electricity Output Triples at Aswan Dam

NC0109061488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 1 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] A report on electricity entitled "High Dam Turbines To Work at Full Capacity in 2 Months" appears in today's issue of AL-AKHBAR. The paper cites Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, as saying that electricity output at Aswan's High Dam has been tripled due to higher water levels in the reservoir. The minister said that the dam's generators are expected to work at full capacity within 2 months if water levels continue to rise.

The electricity and energy minister added that a fifth unit will be inaugurated at Abu Qir power plant in 1990, in cooperation with the French. Several power plants are to become operational next year in the Damietta, Shubra al-Khaymah, southern Cairo, 'Araqah, and Suez areas, the minister says.

Briefs

Ambassadors Depart for Posts

Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received the recently appointed Egyptian ambassadors today on the occasion of their departure to assume their posts abroad. They are: Muhammad Sakir, ambassador to Britain; Ahmad Sudqi, ambassador to France; Husayn Kamil, ambassador to Belgium; Wahib al-Minyawi, ambassador to Japan; and Samir Sayf al-Yazal, ambassador to Portugal. [Excerpt] [*NC3108193188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 31 Aug 88*]

Technical Agreement

Cairo, Sept. 1 (MENA)—Egypt and Tunisia agreed today to coordinate between the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Cooperation for Development and the Tunisian Agency for Cooperation within the context of the United Nations Development programme UNDP. Ambassador Ibrahim 'Allam, director of the department, said the UNDP aims at encouraging technical cooperation among developing countries. Ambassador 'Allam returned here yesterday from Tunisia at the end of his four-day visit there where he signed the agreement and discussed with a number of Tunisian officials ways to put the agreement into effect. [Text] [*NC0109152688 Cairo MENA in English 1056 GMT 1 Sep 88*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Suit Against Reagan

LD0109170688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has hailed the anti-imperialist tribunal that was held in Tripoli to look into the suit filed by the Libyan Arab people against U.S. chief executive Reagan and his Administration as a result of the policy of international terrorism and the various aggressions under imagined and fabricated pretexts they have pursued against the Great Jamahiriyah and the brother leader's home.

In a speech he made during a reception with members of the tribunal, the brother leader said:

On behalf of the people of the jamahiriyah, the martyrs of the barbarous U.S. aggresion, the forces of the international center [words indistinct] national leadership of the Arab revolutionary forces, and all the peoples who aspire to freedom and peace, I hail this respected court, and I consider it a cause for optimism as far as the future of mankind is concerned.

The leader pointed out that this court is an expression of the conscience of the world. It has neither a police force nor prisons, for the police and the prisons belong to governments. This court, however, has means that are stronger than police and prisons. It has the force of morals, of conscience, and of the principles of morality, which are stronger than the opposing force that belongs to the United States, Britain, or the other (?imperialist) powers.

The leader went on to say that we hail the peoples of Latin America; they deserve praise for their persistent struggle against U.S. imperialism. The leader expressed the hope that this court represents the conscience of the entire world. He said we do not care how many victims, buildings and equipment we lose, but the loss of international conscience and morality would be a great loss. He pointed out that losses or gains in this battle cannot be measured in material terms but in human will; so the will of mankind has triumphed!

The leader emphasized that this respected court is a defender of these values. As for the accused—the U.S. President—we can declare to the court that he is a coward and, consequently, has been unable to come before it. He has, instead, sent Americans overseas to die. However, being a coward, he has been unable to come before the court. He has innocent soldiers here, where the court is being held, and they were killed.

The leader added that the head of the U.S. Administration, in peacetime and at the request of the court, has been unable to come here. In this respect, he stressed that Reagan's escape from justice will not permit him to escape from history and that the biggest loss which he could cause his country in his last days is to be summoned by an international court which has gathered together respected world figures and to be condemned as a murderer.

In concluding his statement, the leader said that I accept [word indistinct] the judgment of the court, and I shall work for (?justice to be done).

Receives Tunisians

LD0109184888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A Tunisian delegation, essentially comprising Habib Ammar, Minister of State for the Interior, and Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally, is in Tripoli to participate in the festivities of the 19th anniversary of the September Revolution.

This morning the delegation met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution. During this meeting, which lasted over an hour, Mr Ammar conveyed the congratulations of the Tunisian president, government, and people to the Jamahiriyah on the occasion of this anniversary. The two sides also reviewed aspects of exceptional relations existing between the two sister countries and the major development that these relations are experiencing, especially after the recent visit to the Jamahiriyah by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

On the same occasion, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi renewed his praise for the changes taking place in Tunisia since 7 November, saying that these changes are not only in Tunisia's interest. They are full of promise for all the Arab countries, and the Maghreb countries in particular. He added that he and the Libyan people stand by Tunisia. He also conveyed his fraternal greetings to His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, wishing him more success. [passage omitted]

FLN Official Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat

LD0109232488 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] In Tripoli today, the official in charge of the permanent secretariat of the FLN was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to whom he conveyed President Chadli Bendjedid's greetings on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution. Mr Messaadia represents Algeria in the celebrations that marked this anniversary.

He has also had extensive political activities. Mr Messaadia had talks with many Libyan officials, particularly Commander Jallud. He has also met many Arab delegates to the celebrations, including Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Congratulatory Message Sent to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0109095088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] The following congratulatory telegram was sent to Tripoli on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of 1 September Revolution, addressed to His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution and of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In expressing the warmest congratulations of the president, the government, and people of the Republic of Afghanistan to His Excellency Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the People's Committee, and the fraternal people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the message conveys confidence that the existing fraternal and friendly relations between the two countries is further developing and consolidating successfully in the interests of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriyah for peace, stability, confidence, security, and cooperation in the region and in the world. [no signature as heard]

JANA Editor Marks Revolution Anniversary

LD0109092288 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab peoples, the masses of the Arab nation, the free people of the world and all the progressive revolutionary forces struggling for freedom, salvation and peace in various spots of the globe celebrate today the 19th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution—the historic outstanding event launched by the revolutionary free indignant will on the dawn of Al-Fatih 1969 in support of all the freedom-fighters in the Arab homeland and the whole world.

[Words indistinct] The great dawn that came in truthful response for the repeated call of our people which demanded change and purge and urged to work and take the initiative to respond to the calls from the sons of the Arab nation and the free people of the world to support freedom and pound the positions of the masses' enemies and the agents of colonialism, when the unionist revolutionary Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi led on that memorable day his free unionist brothers [words indistinct] and their courageous soldiers in an immortal historic march that smashed a corrupt rule which bad smell blocked the noses and forever the palaces of revision, puppetry, treason and backwardness had tumbled and the universe saw the break of a new dawn that preached pride, progress, Arab unity and freedom. [sentence as received]

JANA's political editor wrote on such great victory saying: "Here is the 19th. anniversary approaching on a bridge of victories, giant material gains, serious historic transformations and firm solid stance. Our people is treading upon the paths of dignity and pride—thanks to a nationalist (?and unionist) revolution that evicted the colonialist bases and rooted-out the Italian colonial settling from this sacred soil. It demolished the tin shacks, [words indistinct] poverty and [word indistinct] building healthy houses. It fought an agricultural giant revolution in order to turn the vast areas of desert land and derelict land into greenery. It set free springs of water out from the depths of the desert to build the structure of a great mand-made river that will carry goodness and growth and secure the future of the coming generation. It built the giant industrial fortresses over every inch of our beloved jamahiriyah.

"All these accomplishments and others, that there is no time to mention them, are being achieved thanks to the great revolution that enabled the people to win its authority, wealth and arms and laid the foundations of

the civilised jamahiri society in which the people practices its authority, realises direct people's democracy so that its country becomes the meeting place for all free revolutionaries who aspire freedom and salvation everywhere on earth."

The editor added:

"Here comes the 19th. anniversary and the Libyan Arab people is more aware and stronger in its determination and will after freedom has been enhanced over its land in one of the world's greatest freedom feats when this daring leader demolished prisons, freed prisoners, tore lists of those banned from travel, demolished the symbol of artificial boundaries designed by the enemies of the Arab nation—the colonialists—to separate the sons of the one Arab nation from each other asserting the unity nationalist approach of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and its insistence upon [word indistinct] the Arab masses' awareness in the inevitability of Arab unity.

Also, man's will and humanity was victorious over the land of great Al-Fatih by the declaration of the grand green document of human rights in the era of the masses in confirmation of the great victories achieved since the revolution in 1969 and the establishment of people's authority, freeing paid-workers from their chains, ending of exploitation, suppression and tryanny and the launching of the students' revolution."

The editor went on to say:

"The feast of feasts—the 19th anniversary—and the Great Al-Fatih Revolution is achieving this enormous quantative material and moral accomplishments on various level in support of the Arab unity cause to confirm its unionist historic dimension with the start of a series of contacts and meetings amongst the countries in the west of the Arab homeland to construct the structure of a borderless Arab Maghreb on the road of the pan-Arab unity and to demonstrate that the unity train is heading in one inevitable direction towards the aspired aim to which the Arab masses from the ocean to the gulf look—the unity.

"All those steps on the road are drawn in stubborn insistence to accomplish the strategic set goals and principles in accordance with the law of the revolution which surpasses the limitations of the felt reality towards goals further and more comprehensive so that our people advance striding on the road of honour and dignity with revolutionary awareness, with its hopes, desires and ambitions to continue the sacred struggle against the strong holds of the reactionaries and the imperialists and to instigate the Arab nation's masses toward unity, building progress and supporting the oppressed and the wronged."

The editor added:

"So we welcome the 19th anniversary and chant—and with us chant the free people, it is the feast of freedom. The feast of social justice, the feast of bold defence of human values and ideals, the feast of loyalty to human rights in a life built upon natural balance, the feast of the revolution that came about thanks to a creative inventive mind which came out—as a result of its comprehensive awareness—with radical solutions that were realised on the ground of reality with a revolutionary creativity through which people became free and in which authority, wealth and arms were handed over to our people and in which labourers became partners not paid-workers who practice their productive activity through their revolution in a spirit of responsibility and sincerity."

The editor congratulated the Libyan Arab people and the free people of the world on such great historic event. He said:

"Roads are still long and difficult and despite our victories, through the revolutionary action over all challenges, the revolution continues in fighting battles on all fronts so that freedom emerges victorious in various parts of the globe, so that Arab unity be realised and the strongholds of the reactionaries, colonialists and imperialists be demolished wherever they maybe in the Arab homeland whose defeat has become a necessity for the confrontation with the scheme against our generous Arab nation that will remain great by its free revolutionaries' who are advancing over the hard terrain on the road of (?revolution) for freedom and the final salvation of mankind. Salute to the symbol of will and loyalty, freedom-fighter Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution."

Revolutionary Committee Movement Statement

LD3108105788 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1128 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Statement issued by 11th session of the revolutionary committee movement meeting in Tripoli on 30 August—read by unidentified participant—live]

[Text] The 11th meeting of the revolutionary committee movement, held 16-17 Muharram 1398 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 29-30 Hanibal 1988 [29-30 August] under the slogan "For the Sake of Revolutionary Tasks for the Consolidation of Freedom," salutes the international leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, its founder and the maker of the era of the masses, the builder of their glory, the liberator of man, and the destroyer of prisons. The movement declares that during the state of revolutionary action, the revolution has triumphed with its revolutionary program in favor of the popular masses, in order to affirm the latter's sovereignty, and in order that the sun will shine on all.

The revolutionary committee movement realizes that victory and defeat in historic confrontations are not military but are gauged by the triumph of will and the

firmness of resolve. The revolutionary committee movement, which was victorious in the biggest confrontation of the 20th century, is alone qualified to make the history of mankind. The revolutionary committees realize that the extraordinary tasks which they carried out were necessary in order to forge ahead in the construction of the jamahiriyah and to wage the many battles against the enemies of the masses, who, if they had triumphed, would have persecuted the masses.

The revolutionary committees declare their acceptance of painful necessity if it is for the sake of protecting the revolution and the gains of the masses. The revolutionary committees affirm a new stage of revolutionary action in accordance with their fundamental tasks in order to reaffirm the sovereignty of the people's conference and the construction of the model jamahiriyah. Realizing that the masses do not desire politics nor rule but take initiatives to satisfy their daily needs, [the movement] (?takes) new and practical steps to push the people into measures which are regarded as necessary so that the people will assume the responsibility of authority which they are spontaneously building without any desire for politics or rule in order to establish the real people's jamahiriyah instead of the official jamahiriyah.

The revolutionary committee movement realizes that the masses are by nature peaceful and do not desire war or violence but want rest and tranquility and that this can only be achieved through the possession of force and taking up arms to protect peace. The revolutionary committee movement realizes that the bitter struggle being waged by the popular masses in all continents of the world under the leadership of their revolutionary forces aimed at liberation has enabled it to exercise popular control through the establishment of the people's committees without reaching the phase of the people's conferences.

The revolutionary committees affirm that the great jamahiriyah is a land of safety, freedom, and confidence and that it is firmly, confidently, and happily embarking on building the future of the world and the construction of jamahiriyahs, ensuring the triumph of freedom so that the sun of freedom may shine over the land and so that oppression and exploitation may end.

The revolutionary committee movement has decided the following:

First:

1. To utilize the momentum of the masses to inject them with an awareness of jamahiri ideas in order to adhere to the contents of the great Green Book on human rights in the age of the masses.

2. To warn the revolutionary committees against abusing the atmosphere of freedom, stressing its continued determination and readiness to exercise revolutionary violence against forces which are hostile to the people's authority if that is deemed necessary.

3. The revolutionary committee movement has decided to adhere to its fundamental tasks of instigation, guidance, and revolutionary control, to abandon secondary tasks, and to return to work through the platform of the Basic People's Congress to reaffirm the people's authority and to stengthen popular will.

4. The revolutionary committees will bear the responsibility for instigating the masses of the Basic People's Congresses and will invite world thinkers and cultural, legal, trade unionist, and human rights organizations to take part in formulating a law on consolidating freedom, and to issue legislation to implement the great Green Book on human rights in the age of the masses.

5. To call for an international cultural revolution on the basis of the great Green Book on human rights.

6. To deepen [ta'miq] the great Green Book through study and analysis and to plan to have it officially taught at all levels of education.

7. To preach internationally the great Green Book through revolutionary caravans and through the organization of Arab and international youth's meetings to make known the document's dimensions, using media organs to do so;

8. To benefit from the new unionist atmosphere that has been created by the destruction of boundaries and preach Arab unity and cultivate deeply pan-Arab consciousness;

9. To endeavor to show the human role played by the Great September Revolution as the defender of human rights in the world and to incite the masses to destroy prisons.

Second: To follow up the establishment of the revolutionary platforms:

Given the importance of the organizational role of the basic platform and its establishment through the Basic People's Congress to reaffirm the people's authority, the revolutionary meetings at the municipalities have examined the clause dealing with the process of the establishment of revolutionary platforms and decided the following:

1. To continue the process of establishing revolutionary platforms in accordance with the organizational schedule and the duties of the revolutionary committees;

2. To emphasize team work at the platforms;

3. To emphasize discipline inside the movement and the application of the principle of accountability and strict follow-up by the movement's members, as well as strict adherence to instruction number 1 and the judgments of the permanent revolutionary court in all platforms;

4. The movement of the revolutionary committees reaffirms that it is an open movement of the masses;

5. To renew the registration of members in accordance with rules which would guarantee the screening out of the members who are uncommitted;

6. To establish the platform on the basis that each people's congress is a basic one;

7. To emphasize the establishment of the revolutionary committees at educational centers through the consolidation of the curricula of the revolutionary teacher;

8. To adopt preaching and dialogue as the bases for creating a jamahiri culture and call upon the intelligentsia, who are committed to the jamahiri line to join the movement so that we benefit from their ability to carry out the duties of educating and bolster the power of contemplation and thinking by members of the movements;

9. To pay attention to members of the flowers, cubs, and youths of the September revolution and follow up their development, identifying the revolutionaries among them so that they join the movement;

10. The revolutionary committees emphasize the program of the revolutionary caravans and their role in exposing deviations and presenting the facts to the masses of the people's congresses to prevent any flank movement on the revolutionary program and to follow the concept of revolutionary control, and the selection of members of the caravans on the basis of efficiency so that they discharge their duties in an integrated manner with the revolutionary committees;

11. Supporting the revolutionary platforms with material capabilities in a way that will ensure the implementation of their tasks.

Third: Drawing up execution programs for the resolutions of the previous congresses.

In an expression of the movement's adherence to its commitments and to carry out the revolutionary programs of the revolutionary gatherings of the movement, the revolutionary committees decide the following:

1. The revolutionary committees undertake the task of drawing up executive programs for the revolutionary gatherings' resolutions through the basic platforms and the mother platforms;

2. Entrust the liaison bureau with the task of drawing up a pattern for following up, defining the order of priority for carrying out the decisions of the revolutionary gatherings, and providing the necessary capabilities for it.

3. Adhere to its commitment to be present at the basic platforms and to work through them;

4. Stressing that the movement will abide by all of the previous decisions, particularly with regard to education.

Fourth: The Union Project Between Libya and Algeria:

Starting from the conviction of the revolutionary committee movement in the inevitability of the Arab nation's unity, and its faith in the need for the establishment of jamahiri unity, the revolutionary committee movement declares its commitment to call on the basic people's congresses to make the union project successful as a significant cornerstone in the construction of the Arab Maghreb and a step along the road of achieving the all-embracing Arab unity. The revolutionary committee movement salutes the pan-Arab initiative of the Arab Union project and calls upon Arab revolutionary forces to work toward the realization of the Arab Union project as step toward the establishment of a unified Arab jamahiriyah which will realize the freedom and happiness of the Arab people.

Fifth: Studying the phenomenon of not abiding by revolutionary work through the revolutionary platforms at the basic people's congreses: Out of the keen interest of the revolutionary committee movement in abiding by its literature and the resolutions of its gatherings, and in the embodiment of its ideological activity in support of serious and responsible revolutionary work, the movement decides the following:

1. To endorse the internal disciplinary statute and to make efforts to speed up the disciplinary action needed to achieve the dynamism which will enable the movement to carry out its tasks seriously and effectively.

2. Qualitative training for the members of the movement through planned education under the direct supervision of the leadership.

3. Adherence to revolutionary obligations and collective action through basic platforms, and rejection of individualism and cliquism in revolutionary work.

4. Adherence to [the principle of] alternation and the implementation of methods of questioning and credibility testing of the movement's members.

5. To prepare revolutionary committees for revolutionary tasks to guarantee that they carry out their role to instigate and guide competently and effectively.

6. To reorganize the basic people's congresses to ensure that there are revolutionary committees which are effective and capable of carrying out their tasks.

7. To bring together well-qualified and experienced members of the movement in order to benefit from them in implementing revolutionary plans.

8. To support members of the revolutionary committees who are cut off from revolutionary platforms and to make efforts to eliminate the reasons for this.

The revolutionary committee movement, while concluding the proceedings of its 11th meeting under the difficult and critical circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing, under increasing revolutionary awareness in the world and in the beginning of the age of masses and peoples stresses the following:

1. The revolutionary comittees declare their unlimited support for the genration of anger which is leading the popular revolution in the occupied Arab territory by confronting [words indistinct] of the Zionist barbarians, in response to the instigation of the custodian of pan-Arabism and in anticipation of his revolutionary prediction regarding the birth of an angry Arab generation [word indistinct] imperialism, Zionism, and reaction. To place all of their capabilities at the disposal of the revolutionaries of the stones in order to liberate Palestine from the river to the sea and from the south to the south [as heard].

2. They reaffirm their pride in unionist work among Arab countries and support for the unionist steps between Algeria and the great Jamahiriyah.

3. The revolutionary committee movement hails the 7 November movement of Tunisia and declares its support for and commitment to the building of an Arab Maghreb without borders as a step toward comprehensive Arab unity;

4. The movement hails the brother leader of the revolution's role in stopping the Gulf war and his call to point all guns at the historical enemy of the Arab and Islamic nation represented in Zionism, imperialism, and neocrusaders;

5. The revolutionary committees emphasize their support and backing for liberation movements in Africa, their support for the independence of Namibia and the liberation of Africa [as heard] and declare their solidarity with the struggler Nelson Mandela, a victim of apartheid in South Africa, and emphasize the need for collective joint struggle against Zionism, reactionism, imperialism, fascism, and apartheid—they announce their commitment to the idea that the great Jamahiriyah is the international platform for this international struggle;

6. The revolutionary committees affirm their backing for the liberation movements' in Latin and South America, their support for the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, and their support for the Panamanian people and its revolutionary and anti-imperialism leadership—they also stress their support for the revolutionaries of New Caledonia and Martinique, as well as their support for all freedom strugglers;

7. The revolutionary committees affirm their desire to help fragmented peoples and nations over the world so that they may establish their independent identities, especially the blacks, the North American Indians, and the Kurdish nations;

8. The revolutionary committees affirm their support for and alliance with the Green movement, the alternative movement, and the peace movements in Europe;

9. The revolutionary committees declare their readiness to thwart imperialist plots and confront terrorist threats coming from the nests of neo-racism and crusade in London and Washington—such threats will not, furthermore, dissuade us from supporting the revolutionaries and the free men of Ireland in their attempts to liberate their soil and build the future of their people and their right to independence;

10. The revolutionary committees reaffirm their determination to confront the flagrant enmity and the long-harbored rancor of the figureheads of the terrorist U.S. administration and the stationary U.S. aircraft carrier "Britain." They will not, furthermore, make us doubt the truthfulness of our firm revolutionary stances and our pan- Arab commitment to liberate the usurped Arab land, build the future of our great nation, and protect its freedom on its land and under its skies.

Finally, the revolutionary committees salute the struggle of the Burmese people, Korea, and Bangladesh and call upon them to form people's committees to administer their affairs and to replace the antipeople and pro-exploitation governmental administration. Forward, September forever, and the revolutionary struggle continues.

[Signed] The 11th meeting of the revolutionary committee movement

People's Congress Secretary Meets Britons

LD0109174788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1653 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Congress this morning met with members of the British parliamentary delegation now on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to take part in the celebrations of the 19th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the 10th anniversary of the revolution of the partners-producers.

During the meeting, which was attended by the brother assistant secretary for the affairs of the popular committees at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, bilateral relations between the General People's Congress and members of the Labor Party in the British Parliament, were discussed.

Freedom of Movement Endorsed With Malta

LD0109180188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA)—Sources of the joint Libyan Arab-Maltese commission have said that at the conclusion of the commission's work, agreement was reached between the Libyan Arab and Maltese sides to endorse [iqrar] the freedom of movement of citizens between the Great Jamahiriyyah and Malta with personal identity cards as of 1 September 1988.

Joint Committee With Sudan Issues Statement

LD3109181688 Tripoli JANA In Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Aug (JANA)—The Jamahiriyah-Sudan working group held its first meeting in Khartoum from 27 to 29 August 1988. Talks were held on how to strengthen the distinguished relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan and push them forward toward a practical formula for a union between the two countries.

The following statement was issued after the meeting:

To reaffirm the principled commitment of both Sudan and the Great Jamahiriyah to the strategic aims which constitute and determine their Arab, Islamic, and African affiliation and rely on Arab unity as an instrument to muster the economic, political, and human resources of the Arab nation and rid it of fragmentation, and subservience;

To continue the unionist dialogue between the two countries in later stages of their history;

Proceeding from the charter of national concord, which stresses the need for establishing distinguished relations between Sudan and Libya in accordance with the program of the government of national concord and its line of bolstering relations between brethern;

To consolidate the Great Jamahiriyah's formula for a union which would bring together Arab countries within the framework of the Arab union charter;

To reaffirm the historical continuity of the unionist dialogue, the struggle relations between the two countries, which reflect a common historical experience between them and which proved their firmness and effectiveness in confronting the events taking place around and then culminating in the triumph of the Sudanese people on 6 April 1986 [date as received];

And out of the two sides' conviction that the spirit of the age they are living in dictates the need to leave the circle of fragmentation and division for unionist reality, bringing together the economic, political, and human capabilities of the two countries on the path of comprehensive unity;

Agreement has been reached to set up a joint action group from the two sides to submit proposals and practical formulas for unionist work. Each side should submit its ideas to be worked on and studied by the other team in order to lay down a practical formula. This formula will be submitted to the political leaderships of both countries at a date to be agreed on. A decision will then be made by both countries' institutions on this formula.

The Libyan Arab delegation observed the damage caused by floods and rain in Sudan which require Arab and international countries to stand by under these circumstances, to enable it to confront the damage in order to achieve political, economic, and social stability.

Efforts To Unite PLO Factions Reach 'Dead End'

PM0109151188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Sep 88 pp 1,2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Intervenes Personally To Bring Positions Closer"]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It seems that Libyan endeavors to hold an expanded meeting comprising all the Palestinian factions have reached a dead end. In coordination with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had sent an invitation to all Palestinian leaders to meet in Tripoli in order to achieve comprehensive Palestinian national unity in preparation for a PNC emergency session. But Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Tripoli on Tuesday, left Libya at dawn yesterday, Wednesday—which supports the conclusion that Libyan endeavors have achieved no progress. Moreover, Palestinian sources have indicated that the situation does not inspire optimism, especially in view of the hard line adopted by both Fatah dissident Colonel Abu Musa and Ahmad Jibril (General Command), who refused to meet with the Fatah leadership. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, it has been reported here that Libya, as well as both Algeria and Tunisia, has welcomed the idea of hosting the PNC emergency session in Tripoli.

It has been noticed that Libya now supports, more than ever, the idea of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile. In this regard, the sources indicated that the two political and legal committees are currently studying the issue thoroughly. The sources added that the political committee is currently making moves at Arab and international levels to explore the views of the forces allied with the Palestinian revolution about such a step.

Morocco

Filali on Cease-Fire, Referendum in Sahara

JN0209113688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Aug 88 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] Geneva, AL-ITTIHAD, News Agencies—The United Nations announced yesterday that Morocco and the Polisario have agreed in principle to the peace proposals UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has made on a cease-fire between the two sides and on holding a referendum in the Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, has said that he does not expect the withdrawal of some Moroccan forces from the Western Sahara at the present time, stressing that these forces are now inside their barracks where they will remain while the referendum is being conducted.

Filali said there still are some obstacles and details which must be discussed with the UN secretary general, and that these can be summed up as follows:

First, the definition of the inhabitants who will have the right to vote in the Western Sahara.

Second, the UN secretary general's proposals on the appointment of those who will supervise the referendum operation.

Third, the Polisario's reply.

Fourth, the executive steps Javier Perez de Cuellar will take to hold the referendum and the arrangements for supervising it.

Filali said the UN secretary general will submit these details to the two sides after he obtains the UN Security Council's approval, stressing that Morocco accepted this on the basis of principles of peace. [passage omitted]

MAP Reports on 1 Sep Cabinet Meeting

LD0109135288 Rabat MAP in English 1207 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Rabat, Sept 1-(MAP)—Premier Azzedine Laraki Wednesday chaired a cabinet meeting devoted to examining the finance bill for next year and several draft bills and international conventions.

Minister of Finance Mohamed Berrada reported on preparation of the finance bill for 1989, stressing the important results obtained so far at the economic and financial levels, thanks to high directives of King Hassan II.

Berrada said the government will continue its efforts in internal and external financial re-adjustments, raising public investments, promoting the private sector and the creation of jobs for further economic and social development.

After a lengthy debate, the cabinet decided to continue examining preparations for the finance bill in forthcoming meetings.

Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri then presented a detailed report on the progress in the national subscribtion operation for constructing the Grand Hassan II Mosque.

Basri said that by August 26, total subscriptions had reached 1.8 billion dirhams for 11 million subscribers representing 46 per cent of the Kingdom's total population.

The minister particularly stressed the great popular enthusiasm in the popular partici ating in this operation and the great affluence the variou susbscription bureaux know since the beginning of this operation last July 20. [sentence as received]

The cabinet then listened to a report by minister delegate in charge of planning Rachidi Ghazouani on his recent missions to Niger, France and Zaire.

In Niger, Ghazouani had attended the 14th ministerial conference of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa on the continent's prospects for economic development and its priorities, before flying to Paris to participate in the French-Moroccan meeting on promoting French investments in Morocco, then to Zaire for talks on bilateral cooperation.

The cabinet then debated several draft bills concerning amendments to the 1975 dahir (royal decree) on creating universities, the 1986 bill on reorganizing regional pedagogical centers and the 1983 decree on obtaining doctorate in medical sciences.

Finally, the cabinet examined several international agreements, namely the agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation concluded with Czechoslovakia on June 24, 1988, the agricultural cooperation agreement concluded with the United Arab Emirates last April 14, and that concerning the creation of a Moroccan-Egyptian grand joint commission concluded in Cairo last May 18.

Western Sahara

Referendum Predicted 'Much Later Than Expected'

LD0109205288 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Let us turn to the peace process in Western Sahara with an exclusive report: The Polisario thinks the referendum on Western Sahara will take place much later than expected. This is according to the Polisario's number two, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, who is in Tunisia now. [passage omitted]

OAU Approves Sahara Peace Plan Moves

LD0109141988 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Moussa Traore, OAU chairman, president of Mali, has been officially informed by Perez de Cuellar of the decision of Morocco and the Polisario Front to accept the Western Sahara peace plan. The OAU chairman approves their action.

The clauses of the agreed plan have not been announced in full, but the plan is known to stipulate a cease-fire and the holding of a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara. The date of the cease-fire is not known, but THE NEW YORK TIMES quoted UN officials as saying that a truce would be in force within a month. These sources say UN forces will arrive in the Western Sahara after the truce is announced prior to the holding of a referendum. The formula for this referendum has not yet been resolved. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Meets UN's Perez de Cuellar, Eliasson

JN0109154688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 1 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, paid a short visit to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at his place of residence at the Palais des Nations here today to see him off on his departure to Lisbon.

Afterward, Tariq 'Aziz made a statement to journalists: I am here as long as my mission requires. My colleagues and I are prepared for serious work to fulfill our mission, which is to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, and durable settlement to the dispute with Iran according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

He said Perez de Cuellar introduced him to Jan Eliasson, his personal envoy to the negotiations. He added: As we cooperated with the secretary general in a spirit of sincerity and seriousness, we will cooperate with his personal envoy—a prominent diplomat.

To Talk With Eliasson

JN0209103088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 2 Sep (INA)—Therese Gasto, [name as received], director of information at the UN European headquarters, has stated that Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, is currently meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, head of the Iranian delegation to the Iraq-Iran negotiations. Velayati arrived in the Palais des Nations at 1230 Baghdad time and made no press statements.

Gasto added that Ambassador Eliasson will meet with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the negotiations, at 1415 today Baghdad time. She added that work continues at the experts level. Gasto said that the report prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the treatement of POW's in both countries will be read to the press at the UN European headquarters this afternoon.

Sa'dun Hammadi Interviewed on Algiers Accord

JN0109150588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, held a press conference in Paris this morning explaining why the 1975 Algiers agreement is now canceled—chiefly because of Iran's nonabidance by and noncommitment to the provisions of the agreement. Faridah al-Shubashi attended the press conference and asked Sa'dun Hammadi some questions:

[Begin recording] [Al-Shubashi] Mr Minister, how do you assess the seriousness of Iranian threats to resume the war if Iraq insists on considering the 1975 agreement canceled? Did Iraq notice an international understanding while explaining the motives behind its stand on this agreement, especially by the five permanent UN Security Council member states?

[Hammadi] Right from the start, we said that the Iranian regime did not accept Resolutiuon No 598 out of its desire for peace but was forced into it. All the Iranian statements, especially those of the No 1 man in the regime, indicate that they did not relinquish their aggressive intentions and the policy of expansion when they accepted this resolutiuon. The threat to use force is dangerous, and it will be better if they give up this tone with which they address us. The threat of force has consequences for which they themselves bear responsibility. However, we cannot yield to threats and do not accept preconditions imposed on the negotiations. The Iranians want to impose on Iraq an agreement that they did not respect. The agreement is canceled. After 8 years of war, they want to impose a precondition on the negotiations. This is unacceptable.

[Al-Shubashi] What about the stand of the five permanent member states on Iraq's decision to consider the 1975 agreement canceled?

[Hammadi] We are exerting efforts to explain the details of this issue to the five UN Security Council member states. I can say that there is a wide understanding for and sympathy with our stand, especially after the circumstances under which this agreement was concluded and its details are explained. It seems to me that those with whom we are meeting did not know the information we are communicating to them. I am pleased to say that those with whom we meet and to whom we explain our stand sympathize with us and consider us right in this stand.

[Al-Shubashi] In light of your talks in Paris, can the French stand be listed under this framework of understanding?

[Hammadi] I said all those whom we contacted. [end recording]

On Shatt al-'Arab

JN0109182688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Paris, 1 Sep (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, stressed that Iran had abrogated five border agreements with Iraq before the Algiers agreement. Each time it had new demands on Iraqi territory.

Addressing a press conference in Paris today attended by a large number of correspondents and journalists, Sa'dun Hammadi shed historical light on Iraqi-Iranian relations and said that the 1639 [as received] agreement emphasized that the two banks of Shatt al-'Arab fall under Iraq's sovereignty and that in 1913 a new agreement was signed with Iran and another in 1937.

Sa'dun Hammadi pointed out that the shah of Iran abrogated the 1937 agreement in 1969 to demand half of Shatt al-'Arab. When Iraq rejected that, the shah armed insurgents in northern Iraq, amassed forces on the border, and shelled border villages and towns with artillery in a bid to put Iraq under military pressure. He also occupied some Iraqi border areas.

The minister added that we thus faced two options. Either we accept the new Iranian demands or lose the northern part of our country. In 1975, an agreement was reached with the shah that was based on three principles. The first was that the shah would withdraw from Iraqi territory, the second that he would stop supporting the insurgents in the north, and the third the division of Shatt al-'Arab. He added that the Algiers agreement's clauses are linked together and any violation of one will lead to the abrogation of the whole agreement.

Sa'dun Hammadi said the clauses of the agreement calling for dividing Shatt al-'Arab and cutting off Iranian aid to insurgents in northern Iraq were implemented. The rebel leaders fled first to Iran and then to the United States. The shah also agreed to withdraw from Iraqi territory. The shah was toppled before completing his withdrawal from Iraqi territory and replaced by Khomeyni, who abrogated the 1975 agreement before he came to power. He described it in Paris as an imperialist agreement the shah had imposed on the Iranian people. Following his return to Tehran, he called the leaders of the Kurdish rebellion back from the United States and rearmed them so that armed insurgence would return to the north. He also began increasingly to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs to shake its stability.

Sa'dun Hammadi pointed out that all Iranian officials publicly condemned the Algiers agreement in their statements. When we asked them to withdraw from occupied Iraqi border areas, they refused. They claimed that they were Iranian areas and that they do not accept the 1975 agreement—concluded by the shah.

Following this, he added, an official memorandum was sent to Iran in June 1979 through the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad. In it we asked them clearly if the Iranian Government still considered the Algiers agreement valid. They did not reply. We received other replies saying Iranian officials considered the agreement worthless and, therefore, abrogated because it was signed in the time of the shah and was an imperialist agreement.

The minister recalled that, according to this agreement, the Iranians obtained what they wanted by dividing Shatt al-'Arab. They also continued to arm insurgents in the north and occupy Iraqi border areas. The minister asked: What should an independent country do under such circumstances? He replied: We then decided to consider this agreement invalid because the Iranian side neither wanted it nor abided by it.

He stressed that Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab is a vital issue, for Iraq and Iraq cannot accept anything less than that. He added that Iraq, unlike Iran, does not have long coasts and, if Iran develops any sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab, it will be able to cut off the waterway and deprive Iraq of its sea outlet, something that will have tragic consequences for the Iraqi economy.

The minister stressed that if the 1975 agreement continues to be valid, it will mean that Iran will continue to interfere in our internal affairs and will use that as a card to pressure Iraq wherever it wants some kind of superiority over it. This, he said, will lead to a new war, and Iraq does not want a new war.

Returns From France

JN0109192788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1747 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Baghdad this evening following a 2-day visit to France.

Hammadi told INA that during the visit, which came within the framework of consultations with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, he met with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. He explained essential issues on the ongoing Iraq-Iran direct negotiations in Geneva and the Iraqi stance on issues of freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab. He added that his meetings with the French officials were very useful and the officials developed an understanding for and sympathy with Iraq's stand.

INA Reports More Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN0109180388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1608 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] The Iranian forces have continued their cease-fire violations for the 11th consecutive day. The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Iraqi forces informed the UN observers team of these violations and stressed that these excesses indicate a lack of goodwill on the part of the Iranian side in dealing with the cease-fire resolution and the absence of an honest desire for peace.

At 1930 on 29 August, six Iranians carrying light weapons approached one of our positions. They were warned to return to their positions immediately. They enemy also set up a 10-meter tower 200 meters from Shatt al-'Arab. An enemy engineering effort was also noticed in front of our units in the Al-Mutawwi'ah, the Karun River mouth, and (Al-'Arayid) River areas. The UN observers team was notified and asked to pressure the Iranian side to remove the tower and withdraw their engineering effort, since this behavior does not indicate goodwill or a sincere desire for peace.

From 0600 on 30 August to 0600 on 31 August, the Iranian forces carried out a number of cease-fire violations. At 1800 on 30 August in the III Army Corps sector, the enemy lifted its forces' barbed wire and obstructions in front of one of the monitoring points.

At 2010, four vehicles were witnessed behind the enemy barrier. The observers team was notified of these excesses. It recorded them.

At 1100 on 30 August, the Iranian side refrained from securing a meeting for the UN observers working with the Iranian forces to secure the withdrawal of an Iranian patrol. The patrol was forced to withdraw at 1200 in the presence of a UN observers patrol.

In the IV Army Corps sector, an enemy helicopter gunship was seen coming from the direction of Dehloran heading in the direction of ('Ayn al-Khawsh) at 1030 on 30 August. The observers team was informed of this violation.

In the I Army Corps sector, one of the Iranians posted an Iranian flag in front of the (Byonk) traverse at 1430 on the same day. At 1615 on 31 August, a group of Iranians estimated at 8-11 persons took photos at one of the coordinates. At 1625 on the same day, five Iranians came within 150 meters of the Iraqi flag. They fled after being warned by our forces. At 1820 on 31 August, three Iranians came within 50 meters of one of the monitoring points. They retreated after being warned. At 1930 on the same day, three Iranians approached another point.

In the V Army Corps sector, our forces saw two Landcruisers carrying a group of persons estimated at 25 coming from Iranian territory toward our forward units in the Kani Rash area at 1430 on 30 August. They were warned within 30 meters of our positions and retreated. At the same time, our units saw two vehicles, one a large rescue vehicle, and the second a Landcruiser ambulance. They were coming from Iranian territory in the direction of our units. Their occupants posted two flags. They turned back after being warned.

The observers team was informed of all these excesses and asked to take necessary measures to prevent their recurrence and to pressure the Iranian side to stop its continuous violations of the cease-fire decision.

Ramadan Leaves for SFRY To Attend Joint Session

JN0109141388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad today for Yugoslavia, heading a delegation of several officials in the economic, trade, and technical fields.

Ramadan told INA that his visit comes in response to an official invitation from SFRY Prime Minister Branko Mikulic for joint discussions to find new means to help bolster and develop relations between Iraq and Yugoslavia. He added: This visit has special significance since it coincides with the 13th session of the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee for Economic, Technical, and Trade Cooperation. During this visit, we will discuss with our Yugoslav friends what has been implemented since the joint committee's 12th session. We will also set short-term and future plans for bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, and technical fields.

Ramadan praised the development of relations with Yugoslavia during the past few years and expressed confidence that the present visit will produce important results and set new bases for continuing bilateral cooperation in all fields. He pointed out that he will update Yugoslav leaders on the situation in the Iraq-Iran war in light of the direct negotiations currently taking place between Iraq and Iran in Geneva and affirm Iraq's clear stand on the achievement of lasting and comprehensive peace on land, at sea, and in the air to guarantee the just and legitimate rights of both Iraq and Iran and to resolve all the problems that led to the outbreak of war. Ramadan affirmed the need to document all agreements officially and in writing, especially with regard to clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway by the United Nations and the freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Ramadan is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and head of the Iraqi side in the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee; the undersecretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Housing and Reconstruction; and officials from several concerned ministries.

Reports on Talks With Israeli Ministers Denied

NC0209082488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—A responsible Iraqi source has dismissed allegations broadcast by the Zionist enemy radio to the effect that Iraq has decided to cancel a meeting between the Iraqi oil minister and the Zionist energy minister. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi source ridiculed these allegations, noting that the report is groundless in part and parcel. The source added that the Zionist enemy has persistently told lies of this kind which deceive no one. He stated that Iraq's tenacious national and pan-Arab stands will not accept bargaining in any circumstances.

Tamir Notes 'Fact' of PLO Leadership

TA0109175688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The remarks made by Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir in Washington caused a stir in Israel. In his public appearances, Tamir said that Israel must face the fact that no Palestinian representative will enter negotiations without a PLO representative. Likud ministers have already requested that Tamir be recalled. Our Washington based correspondent Shim'on Schiffer met Avraham Tamir and asked him for the meaning of his statements.

[Begin Tamir recording] I presented several ideas. One of them was the problematic situation within the PLO. I stressed that its leadership is still united on the question of terror. It has difficulty locating a common denominator on which to base a political process because, at present, any realistic political process would cause a factional split in the PLO. I definitely stressed that for the Palestinians, the PLO is the leading movement. This must be recognized as a fact.

The problems arise due to two issues. [sentence as heard] All those who wait for the PLO to mend its ways, amend its covenant, and change its methods should consider the possibility that this will not happen; there are no signs yet of any of this happening. That is why I said that those waiting for the PLO to change should at least insist and demand that the PLO not stand in the way of a Palestinian leadership from the territories, and that it refrain from interfering with the Palestinian leadership's attempts to negotiate with us for an interim, or other arrangement that would lead to calm in the area and pave the way for a process. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on Remarks

TA0209103088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] The Foreign Minister's Office has explained that Director General Avraham Tamir said in the United States that the Palestinians regard the PLO as their sole representative; he did not say that Israel views the organization this way. Therefore, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami was told, the whole affair is a tempest in a tea cup which the Likud is trying to whip up artificially and hysterically.

These remarks were made in reaction to a demand by the Prime Minister's Office for Tamir's bosses to dismiss him following his statements.

Shamir on Action Against Tamir

TA0209055388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night said that steps must be taken against Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, in view of his remark that the PLO is the only body representing the Palestinians. Our party affairs correspondent Yoram Deqel spoke to the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I believe that these remarks should not have been made, certainly not by a person who works under the government's authority and speaks in its name. I believe that steps must be taken against him.

[Deqel] What steps? The Likud has said that the director general should be dismissed. Do you agree with that?

[Shamir] Well, the Likud has made its point clear. There is no need to hear my opinion as well. The Likud, however, cannot dismiss him. That is someone else's job. The Likud's response was correct. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 2 September adds: "Officials in the Prime Minister's Office told the Voice of Israel that if in fact Tamir said that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people, it would constitute a complete shift in Israeli policy, and would be viewed by the Prime Minister's Office with great severity.

"A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said there is no change in Israel's policy and, he said, that Tamir's statements should not be taken out of context."]

Foreign Minister Cancels Visit to Prague

TA0209042988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has canceled a visit to Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Peres was to have left for Prague the day after Yom Kippur [22 September], but it appears that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir might be leaving for Hungary that day. The foreign minister therefore decided to cancel his visit.

Poland Cancels Peres Visit; Jerusalem Surprised

TA0209092888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Mordekhay Bassok]

[Text] Poland recently canceled a visit planned by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Warsaw. The move was received with surprise in Jerusalem.

Peres was to have visited Poland immediately after Yom Kippur. It seems that Warsaw is trying to maintain a low political profile in its relations with Israel. This was also the case when Minister Navon and Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir visited Poland several weeks ago. During Peres' visit to Hungary in May, the Hungarians referred to him as the chairman of the Alignment and not the Israeli foreign minister. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem believes that the cancellation of the Warsaw visit will not affect the visit planned between Peres and the Polish foreign minister in New York in 3 weeks.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Firebomb Near Al-'Arrub Camp

TA0209043488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Inhabitants of Qalqilyah hurled stones and scattered nails in the town's main street last night. Our correspondent Moti Amir also reports that a Molotov cocktail was hurled at an Israeli vehicle near the Al-'Arrub refugee camp in Judaea. Nobody was wounded and there was no damage.

Rioters Dispersed With Tear Gas

TA0109171188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Youths from the village of Silwan near East Jerusalem rioted this evening. A Border Police unit used tear gas to disperse the rioters. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the area is now quiet.

SLA 'Success' Allowing IDF Reduction of Forces

TA0109195588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky]

[Excerpts] Over 2,000 Druze from Galilee, Mount Karmel, and even Golan Heights villages arrived at the theological seminary in Hasbayya today. Once a year, the authorities permit almost free movement into the security zone. The Druze secret holy books are kept in the seminary. The 2,000 guests will leave Hasbayya and return to Israel tomorrow.

Quiet greets the guests to South Lebanon. Not far from Marj 'Uyun, near Qal'at al-Shaqif, a South Lebanese [SLA] Army artillery unit is training. There is no more unauthorized shooting in this area; every shell has to be accounted for, just as it does in the IDF. This is one of the examples of the revolution the SLA has undergone over the past 2 years. The result of this revolution has been success in confrontations with terrorists and increasing self-confidence. [passage omitted]

The SLA is exhibiting weapons in the streets of Christian Marj 'Uyun to attract young people to enlist for military service. The SLA now consists of more than 2,500 soldiers, including 600 Shi'ites. Today boy scouts are touring the SLA tanks, jeeps, and APCs.

The IDF, too, is active in the defense of the security zone. The SLA's recent successes, however, have enabled a reduction of the IDF's permanent presence in the area. The IDF makes a point of cooperating with the SLA, but without joint activity.

Not every incident is publicized, but one takes place in the security zone almost nightly: either the movement of terrorists toward Israel, or attempts to attack SLA or IDF positions.

North of the Litani River, concentrations of Hizballah and other radical elements operate under the patronage of Syria. Recently, however, the various terrorists could not boast of many successful operations. The recent success of the SLA and the IDF forced the terrorists to change their modus operandi. Instead of attacking the SLA positions, they make do with artillery shelling. As for the Palestinian terrorists, they persist in their efforts to reach the fence and penetrate into Israel.

More than 3 years after the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon it is reducing its permanent force in the area. The SLA has revealed itself as a tenacious and responsible army. The main point, however, is that the south Lebanese population from both sides of the security zone has learned to live with the new reality forced on them during the past 3 years.

SLA Salary Increase Shows IDF 'Satisfaction'

TA0209100188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Sep 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu and Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to increase the monthly salaries of South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers by some 30 percent. The increase reflects the IDF's satisfaction with the SLA's successes in the face of terrorist attacks, and it hopes the move will encourage more young people living in the security zone to join General Antoine Lahd's army.

The average monthly salary in the SLA at present is $100 and will be raised to $130. This salary is considered high in southern Lebanon, and those who serve in the SLA also receive benefits for themselves and their families.

The SLA is being converted into a regular army with ranks for soldiers and officers similar to those in the IDF; to increase esprit de corps, badges representing the various units are to be worn on uniform sleeves. The SLA recently established a military police unit whose members wear red berets and who patrol traffic arteries and between SLA posts.

Gen Lahd's army is also refurbishing the weapons it recently received from the IDF. An independent SLA ordnance workshop is upgrading the weapons.

To attract new recruits, the SLA held an exhibition of weapons and military equipment in Marj 'Uyun. Hundreds of Shi'ite, Druze, and Sunni young men, who are potential recruits, visited the exhibition.

According to official figures, over 2,400 soldiers serve in the SLA. The training period has been expanded to improve performance. The SLA believes that its soldiers' activities in recent months, which included capturing terrorists and foiling infiltration attempts, reflect its improved capability.

No Need Seen To Change Settler Open-Fire Rules

TA0209064888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English2 Sep 88 pp 1, 24

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, said yesterday that the West Bank settler who accidentally shot two soldiers on Wednesday when reacting to a petrol bomb attack on his car was not justified in opening fire. [passage omitted]

"This is an example of a situation in which a civilian uses his gun after the danger has passed," Mitzna' told reporters during a visit to the wounded soldiers at Hadassah Hospital in 'Eyn Kerem. "In our assessment, the shooting was not justified." [passage omitted]

Military sources said there have been several recent cases in which settlers endangered soldiers while firing weapons in the territories.

"I fully understand the tension and pressure felt by the civilians, and we take this into account," Mitzna' said. "But we insist that they act within limits."

Mitzna' said he saw no need to change open-fire orders for civilians, but lessons would have to be learned regarding the army's operations, use of guns by civilians and coordination between the IDF and settlers. [passage omitted]

New Military Governors Named, Ranks Upgraded

TA0209062788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] New military governors have been appointed to the Nabulus and Ramallah areas of Samaria. Colonel Shmu'el Ettinger was appointed military governor of Ramallah, and Colonel Shmu'el Morag was appointed to Nabulus. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that up to now these posts were held by officers with the rank of lieutenant colonel. It was decided to upgrade the rank of the military governors to full colonel in order to strengthen the status of the Civil Administration in the territories.

Our correspondent has also learned that Colonel G., the brigade commander whom the deputy chief of staff reprimanded for his part in the Bani Na'im incident, has resigned and is going to study journalism at Tel Aviv University. A replacement has already been appointed.

Lebanese Fatah 'Terrorist' Sentenced to Life

TA0109172088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] The Lod military court today sentenced a Fatah terrorist to life. The terrorist, Mahmud Rahman Rahmun, a 27-year old Lebanese citizen, was a Fatah officer. He was a member of a three-man squad that attempted to carry out an attack at Kibbutz Ramim approximately 6 months ago. Their intention was to capture hostages to use as bargaining chips. The squad was discovered immediately after crossing the defense fence. Two IDF soldiers and one terrorist were killed in the clash with the squad.

King Husayn Leaves on 'Working Visit' to Cairo

JN0109094588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman this morning on a 3-day working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which his majesty will hold talks with his brother Egyptian President Husni Mubarak within the framework of constant consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders on various issues of common concern, developments in the Arab world, and the promotion of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

Their majesties were seen off by His Royal Higness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, and a number of the Hashemite family members. Also seeing their majesties off were Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, his majesty's Private Secretary Prince 'Ali ibn Nayif, Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, the ministers, senior civil and military officials, and the Egyptian charge d'affairs in Amman.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent before the king and in the presence of the cabinet during his majesty's absence from the homeland. His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Chief Chamberlain Ra'd ibn Zayd, and Armed Forces Commander in Chief Staff Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir.

Interior Minister Interviewed on W. Bank Measures

JN3008163888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 88 p 17

[Interview with Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani by Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN—date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] Will compulsory military service apply to those carrying temporary passports?

[Al-Dajani] Naturally, compulsory service does not apply to those carrying temporary passports because a temporary passport does not mean that its bearer has acquired nationality. No nationality can be claimed or proved through a temporary passport. Such a passport is as good as a travel document. We issue these passports and grant them to the West Bank inhabitants to facilitate their travel in the Arab countries and to and from the occupied territory. This does not, naturally, mean that the bearer of a temporary passport valid for 2 years needs a visa to enter Jordan. He can enter Jordan any time he wishes just like other citizens. Compulsory service does not apply to him because he is not a Jordanian national. Therefore, he is not required to perform military service.

The difference between the temporary Jordanian passport and the travel documents granted to the Palestinians by the countries hosting the refugees is that this is a passport and not a travel document. The travel document issued by the host countries carries the phrase "a Syrian, Egyptian, or Lebanese travel document for Palestinian refugees," whereas the temporary Jordanian passport, which will be granted to the West Bank inhabitants, is a Jordanian passport that differs from the ordinary passports only in the period of its validity and the fact that it is temporary. This is the only difference to distinguish between a citizen and the bearer of such a passport. It will be stamped with the word temporary and will be valid for 2 years.

Gaza Strip inhabitants carry Egyptian travel documents, but although these documents are issued by the Egyptian Government, those carrying them are not allowed into Egypt without first obtaining a visa. They are also not allowed to reside in Egypt, contrary to our situation here.

[Question] Are there specific instructions regarding the period of time the holders of temporary passports can stay in Jordan?

[Al-Dajani] The period one can stay has not so much to do with the passport as with the card the person is carrying. A green or yellow card is given to those crossing the bridges. The green card is given to persons who permanently reside on the West Bank. The period for visiting allowed is usually according to the purpose of this visit. It is either to visit some relatives, perform a certain job, follow up some paper work, undergo medical treatment, study at a university in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan or abroad, travel abroad for business purposes, or any other purpose. Such a visit was previously limited to 1 month, but we extended it to 3 years and sometimes confined to a limited period.

So the citizen does not lose his right to return to the West Bank, we are always eager to cut short the duration of the visit whenever possible. The Follow-up and Inspection Department follows up such affairs and reminds those concerned that they should leave the country before it is too late. We do so out of a desire not to see the West Bank and Gaza Strip emptied of their people because the Israelis ban the entry of anyone who is even 1 hour late. Thus, they aim at displacing the inhabitants and sending them away by force. Those to whom such a situation applies should rectify their situation at the Follow-up and Inspection Department becuase we no longer allow those with a green card to stay in Amman or abroad for over 1 month.

[Question] How can the people who have not been allowed to go back by the Israeli authorities and who were in Amman before the decision was made straighten out their affairs?

[Al-Dajani] These people cannot straighten out their affairs and pose a problem for us. These people generally cannot reside abroad. If they manage to reside abroad or

sign a work contract with any party, we will facilitate their transactions. If they manage to get a permit from the occupation authorities to return, we will support their return.

[Question] Will their passports be valid for 2 years?

[Al-Dajani] Their passports will be valid for 2 years if they have a residence permit inside and can reside inside the West Bank. Many people left the West Bank and cannot go back. We have no objections to people wishing to exchange their 5-year passports for 2-year passports. We also have no objections to their keeping their 5-year passports.

We affirm that we do not wish to empty the West Bank and Gaza Strip of their residents and people. In fact, containing them within this framework is very difficult considering that every person has his circumstances and problems. Despite all that is said about people's feelings, adherence to the land, and concern, when we deal with these people daily, we find that they are demanding that we allow their sons to take the general secondary certificate examination (tawjihi) or spend a year of their secondary school in Jordan.

However, we cannot allow them to do that because there are schools in the occupied territories that should resume classes. Their students should return t them and take their tawjihi examinations there. We can send a committee to supervise the examinations and bring the papers back to Amman for correction and then publish the results. This is similar to what happens in Great Britain with the GCE examinations. The PLO might say that it wants to set a separate curriculum for the tawjihi examinations. They can, for example, follow the Egyptian tawjihi examination style. This is left up to the PLO and we, in Jordan, do not impose anything on them.

[Question] What arrangements has the Ministry of Interior made to confront the new situation?

[Al-Dajani] The Ministry of Interior had the lion's share of the measures in light of the situations that resulted from the Jordanian decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. All the measures have to do with the day-to-day affairs of the individuals such as passports, family books, personal identity cards, birth certificates, death certificates, and inheritance certificates. All these certificates are handled by the ministry through the Civil Registration and Passport Departments, which handle the legal aspects of these individuals. As for the passports, we have considered every resident or holder of a residence permit for the West Bank to be Palestinian. Therefore, his passport will change from 5-year validity to 2-year validity to distinguish him from a Jordanian citizen.

The true aim of this measure is to highlight the Palestinian identity and personality represented by the people living on the Palestinian land. This measure was not punitive or vengeful. This is out of the question. We are dealing with a situation that requires confrontation of a Zionist enemy and a big conspiracy. It is imperative that we highlight the Palestinian identity on Palestinian soil so that relations between the PLO and Jordan do not take the form of competition. We have repeatedly said: We have no interest in this, and our sole aim is to annihilate the occupation and relieve the land and people of the aggression. Jordan has no designs on the occupied territories and the people there. Our aim is to return the land and the people to the Arab regime. As for the issue of who governs or does not govern, this is a family issue. We congratulate the Palestinian people in advance and say: You will find all the support and backing you need from us.

Jordan has always been in a position of suspicion and accusation. We were accused even in all our attempts to facilitate the daily life for individuals. If we helped our kinfolk in the occupied territories, we were be accused. If we provided them with salaries or financial aid to help them face the circumstances of life, some would call this sharing of jobs. Until now, some still accuse us and say their subordination is now over, as if association with the Arab order and living under the shadow of the Arab order were subordination, while separating the people of the inside and isolating them from their Arab nation is the highest degree of patriotism and revolutionism.

We were faced by a relentless campaign launched against Jordan by all [Palestinian] factions and organisations, until they alienated the citizens on the inside. They became alien to their Arab nation and their strategic depth, so that a generation has been nurtured that does not know its Arab nation or homeland because it lived under pronouncements, slogans, and prevarications.

There has also been an Israeli campaign since 1967 aimed at dishonoring the Jordanian role and accusing it of being Jordanian occupation. This was suggested to the citizens inside. Regrettably, some peole listened to this and propagated it in different formulas. An Israeli media campaign was launched daily, in every news item, newscast, measure, and daily affair, to remove Jordan from the hearts and minds of the citizens. This general climate created an atmosphere alien to the Arab world. Of course, some political slogans and pronouncements are made under the shadow and knowledge of the occupation. But to what extent can such slogans and pronouncements succeed? We do not know where these slogans and pronouncements will lead the people and the homeland.

Over the past 40 years, Jordan has constantly supported the Palestinian people becuase it took on the greatest burden of the Palestinian question in terms of the people and the land. It accepted this burden with goodwill and belief and out of national and pan-Arab motives. But it seems that Arab failure used to be hung on the Jordanian peg, due to geographical location and organic extension. This was very easy for all these considerations.

It is now high time for things to be placed in their correct positions, so that Jordan will not remain in the position of a rival as some people think or suspect. I say it is now high time the PLO, the sole legitimate representaive of the Palestinian people, assumed responsibility for the Palestinian people inside. I do not say that it should be left alone in confronting the Israeli occupation as this is a pan-Arab responsibility that should not be abandoned by anyone. The Palestinian question is not a regional issue. It concerns an Arab-Zionist conflict.

As for Jordanian measures on passports and civil affairs, these are numerous and relate to people crossing the bridges and the passage of trucks loaded with West Bank and Gaza products. Other measures relate to agricultural products and dealings with the various popular bodies. According to recent measures, bodies and institutions will have to decide what is appropriate for them. They will have the right to pull accounts and checks through banks by approval of the Palestinian Affairs Department. Daily dealings will remain because of the interaction of human and family relations on the two banks. It is not easy to disintegrate the cohesion of a unity that lasted for 40 years. But this decision was imperative so that the cause can move, and the option that did not have the chance to live may cease to exist.

When they spoke about the Jordanian option, we told them that there is no Jordanian option, but a Palestinian option. If you want a Palestinian-Jordanian option, our role will be to back and assist, but it will not be the major role as far as Palestinians are concerned. We tried to find a place for the PLO in negotiations and talks leading to the international conference or acceptable formulas. However, it seems this was unacceptable to Israel because of the rife divisions there. It was also unacceptable to the United States, PLO factions, and Arab states.

We always rejected the Jordanian option. Jordan insisted on the Palestinian option because there has to be a Palestinian option. Those involved in the issue, those who had a role to play, did not want Jordan to continue its role. Even during the Algiers summit, they did not want Jordan to be one of the means through which assistance could be sent to the occupied territory. They did not want to mention Jordan at all in any resolution. They wrote ambiguous terms in the resolutions such as "dispatching assistance through regular routes and means," and other meaningless phrases. The impression was prevalent that we vied with the PLO. In fact we had no interest in vying with the PLO because we knew the conditions in the territories more than any other Arab state.

[Question] What were the Arab reactions to the decision?

[Al-Dajani] Arab reactions were in one way or another expressed by the Arab heads of state through press agencies, radios, and other media.

[Question] The PLO is now trying to fill the vacuum resulting from Jordanian measures. How do you view this?

[Al-Dajani] I would like to say the following: Many questions have been put as to the issue of filling the vacuum. What vacuum are they talking about? The occupied territory is suffering from the yoke of the occupation. The connections that prevailed between Jordan and the occupied territory will continue in areas allowed by Israel. In other words, we have always tried to give assistance and support—be it humanitarian, in manpower, or in organization—wherever there was a means of dealing with the people and helping them without prompting Israeli action against such moves. However, if the occupation authorities block this channel, nothing can be done. For example, when they allowed the opening of banks, we opened a bank because we were convinced that this would serve the people and ease living conditions. But there was a hue and cry. Some said this is part of the policy of sharing responsibilities. We heard people theorize about a territory without knowing anything about it or its population.

The bank met the needs of many citizens. They deposited their savings in it instead of hiding them at home or depositing them in Jordanian or Israeli banks. In the field of medical services, Jordan paid salaries for doctors and workers in hospitals to ensure better medical services. There was a responsible chief medical officer there whose only official capacity was that he was appointed by Jordan to supervise hospitals and render these services. The same applies to schools, teaching staff, students, and curricula. Jordan had been paying the salaries of the education apparatus. The employees who have been pensioned off were appointed before 1967. This means they have been in the service for at least 21 years and are due for retirement.

In fact, none of them served less than 30 years. Their Jordanian colleagues retired 10 years ago, but they continued to receive their usual salaries because they were government employees under occupation and had no other means of livelihood. They were allowed to continue their jobs. Now after their retirement, they will be paid as a pension 80 percent of their salaries. All of them have reached the age where they no longer have the old commitments, and their spending is much reduced.

We had to support some of the teachers and other employees who were appointed after 1967 by the occupation authorities to back these establishments and extend a service to them. We used to pay each of them between 50 and 70 dinars over and above their salaries. Now these payments have stopped. In any case, this is of no concern to us now. The continuation of relations between Jordanian and West Bank establishments was dictated by the facts on the ground. When Jordan halted this relationship, no vacuum resulted because the establishments are there and should find for themselves a formula for their own management. For example, with regard to teachers, this formula depends on the curriculum to be used.

[Question] Were the Jordanian embassies informed of the new regulations so they can conduct their business according to them?

[Al-Dajani] As far as the Interior Ministry is concerned, we have informed the Passport and Civil Registration Department, and it will inform the Jordanian embassies of these instructions in writing. We will issue new instructions for each case. Now we have a yardstick to use with many cases. Other cases that might crop up will be dealt with on an ad hoc basis by a decision from the head of the department or the minister. This decision will then become standard operating procedure. Instructions will eventually be issued to cover all cases. However, in the beginning there could be some form of unintentional slow motion to put things on the right path. Explanatory instructions may be issued to cover all cases. We are facing new cases that need decisions in line with the new facts and the new situation. If I do not implement the decision, some may consider it tactical.

[Question] Am I to understand that nothing will affect the expatriates, whether they hold family reunion cards or passports?

[Al-Dajani] Concerning those with family reunion cards, they are composed of two or more categories. Some had been staying in the East Bank before 1967. Some stayed in the East Bank after 1967, and they obtained such cards because they had family ties, assets, and real estate on the West Bank. They had to obtain the card to preserve their possessions, because if they are considered absent citizens, the occupation authorities will confiscate their possessions. Concerning these people, the recent decision cannot be applied to them because these are exceptional circumstances that are beyond my powers and those of others. I will not accept any discussion of this issue with anybody because people's interests are at stake, and we are concerned with these people. It is our duty to safeguard these interests and not leave them as a soft morsel for the enemy. We will not allow the enemy to destroy the lives of the Kingdom's subjects. However, if any one of these does not want to be a Jordanian, it is up to him. He can go to the West Bank and then travel abroad as he wishes. There are no Jordanian complications in this regard.

[Question] Can you tell us the reasons for Jordan's decision and the circmstances surrounding it?

[Al-Dajani] There are many reasons, such as the stands of the Arab states, their demands, and their policies, as well as the PLO stand and its insistance on having only the Palestinian figure without any other figures in the equation.

[Question] There has been talk about a confederation between Jordan and the occupied territory. Do you think that this issue is still a moot point? Will this idea survive?

[Al-Dajani] The confederation is not a Jordanian idea; it is a PLO proposal. The confederal system is a contract between two parties. In my opinion it encourages regionalization—not unity. The pattern is the Swiss confederation, which is not a confederation in that sense. A confederation is a federation with various forms. Since it is contractual, it should enjoy the approval of the two sides. In this case, it is proposed by one side.

As far as we are concerned, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was established on pan-Arab principles, the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. Our objectives are unionist and not regional. If this decision is not based on a pan-Arab foundation and concept, it will not be accepted and will be rejected by Jordan because we believe only in unionist formulas.

[Question] What is your assessment of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, particularly since during the recent meetings in Amman between Jordan and the PLO an agreement was reached to hold meetings in the future?

[Al-Dajani] It was agreed to hold meetings with our brothers in the PLO if there is a need. The recent meeting in Amman was cordial and serious. The PLO members asked how to fill the vacuum and what measures will follow the decision. When these points were clarified to the delegation and we explained the details, they knew the reality of the matter and understood that the political and pan-Arab objectives of the decision are clear. It is true that the decision is difficult, but it was inevitable to place before people their responsibilities so that things will not remain unsettled with no understanding of the Jordanian decision.

I affirm that the uprising did not impose this decision and that it has nothing to do with the decision. The issue had reached a state of stalemate and it did not move with regard to the Israelis and Americans. Everybody rejected the PLO, the [Palestinian] factions. It was necessary to put the PLO before Israel and the United States in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Even with regard to the issue of the joint delegation, Jordan will go to the negotiations as an independent delegation. We do not want to go with anybody. If there is an agreement on a joint Arab delegation, we can participate. Otherwise, we will reject it.

[Question] Do you believe that difficulties will arise concerning residence permits in Arab countires due to the temporary passports?

[Al-Dajani] No problems should arise because a large number of Gaza Strip citizens carry temporary passports and work abroad. As you may recall, the temporary passport used to be valid for one year. Large numbers of people used to work in the Gulf states, and they used to renew their passports every year. It did not pose any problems for them. The fact that the validity period of the passport has decreased from 5 to 2 years, whereas in the other case the validity period of the passport

increased from 1 to 3 years and now back down to 2 years—I do not believe that this will cause any problems because the validity of the passport has nothing to do with the residence permit. The residence permit is renewed yearly, and as long as the passport is renewed every year, this means that there is no problem.

Some of the people who held a Jordanian passport valid for 5 years and now suddenly find themselves with a passport valid for only 2 years might fear that their contracts will be terminated or their residence permits not renewed. This is out of the question. If something like this should happen, then the concerned Arab country will have to be alerted to its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people. As for fees, every new 2-year passport will require a fee of 20 Jordanian dinars. If some changes or adjustments are to be made on the 2-year passport, then no fees for the changes will be charged.

Interior Ministry on Travel

JN3108173788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—In implementation of the prime minister's instructions issued on 20 August regarding the organization of the arrival and departure of West Bankers to and from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and abroad for purposes of work or study, the Inspection and Follow-Up Department affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior will carry out its normal procedures to facilitate matters for the brothers coming from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to enable them to best fulfil the purposes of their arrival.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, the department's director said that the new instructions stipulate granting those arriving from the West Bank and Gaza Strip green cards limiting their visits to 30 days. These cards will be given by the bridges security detachments. He added that the holders of yellow cards will be granted a period 2 months less than that specified by the return permit given by the Israeli occupation authorities. He indicated that the department's business with passports will start with the new temporary passports to be issued in place of the old passports when they expire in accordance with the instructions of the Council of Ministers.

He explained that the department has suspended the measure of withdrawing yellow cards from those eligible for military service as of 11 August and begun to take the necessary measures to return them to their owners. He indicated that those whose cards have been withdrawn must report to the scrutiny section of the Inspection and Follow-up Department at the General Statistics Department to check their records, after which they must report to the Inspection Department to complete the procedures required for returning their cards to them. He said that to facilitate the missions of callers, the department has extended its working hours from 0700 until 1600. It daily grants permits for travel abroad for the purposes of work or study for scores of callers. It also issues cards specifying dates for reporting to save time and effort for callers and prevent overcrowding. He urged callers to abide by the specified dates and issued instructions to facilitate the mission of the department on the one hand and to finish their business on time on the other.

London Paper on Drafting of 'Unionist Plan'

PM0109130188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Aug 88 pp 1,2

[Nasr al-Majali report: "Jordan Neither Officially Confirms Nor Denies Its Draft Unionist Formula"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordan yesterday neither confirmed nor denied press reports from Amman about the intention to prepare a draft "unionist plan" to be presented soon to Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians "when their state is established." A senior Jordanian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I can neither confirm or deny that, although we in Jordan welcome any unionist action uniting the Arab nation to confront present challenges. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday contacted Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah to ask him about the plan. He neither confirmed nor denied it, but he did emphasize that any Arab unionist step at this stage is a basic need. He referred us to Royal Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, whose answer was: I, too, can neither confirm or deny.

Despite the answer—a flexible answer—from the two senior Jordanian officials, who are considered to have strong links with top Jordanian decisionmakers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, collected from more than one reliable official in Amman, confirms that the unionist plan is in the minds of the top Jordanian leadership and was discussed in Baghdad 2 weeks ago after the summit meeting between the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Information received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT confirms that the Jordanian unionist plan will begin with Iraq on an economic basis, primarily by opening the door for the Jordanian private sector to assume a major part of the process of reconstruction in Iraq, while continuing to use Jordan's Al-'Aqabah port as an alternative to Basra until the latter is reconstructed—an operation which will take 3 years at least. [passage omitted]

Source Denies Political Motives Behind Press Move

PM3108115788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic27 Aug 88 p 1

[Nasr al-Majali report: "Responsible Jordanian Official To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Link Between Severance of Ties With West Bank and 'Press Coup' in Our Three Papers"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The decision made by the Jordanian Government the night before last to dissolve the boards of directors of the three

major press establishments has drawn the attention of observers and diplomats both inside and outside Jordan, especially since it is the first decision of its kind in the country. Moreover, it comes less than a month after the decision to sever Jordanian ties with the occupied Palestinian bank, though a responsible Jordanian source denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there could be any link between the two events. [passage omitted]

In his comment on the exciting new changes a senior Jordanian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there were no political motives behind the move. "The measure was taken to enhance the role of the Jordanian press in serving Jordan's pan-Arab aims." [passage omitted]

Businessmen Begin Withdrawing Assests from Banks
NC0109124288 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Travelers arriving from Amman have reported that dozens of businessmen have begun to withdraw their assests from Jordanian Banks, transferring them to Gulf and European banks. The sums which they have withdrawn recently are estimated at tens of millions of Jordanian dinars.

Briefs

Ambassador to Chile

Amman, 1 Sep (PETRA)—A royal decree has been issued approving the cabinet decision regarding the appointment of Wa'il Tuqan as Jordan's ambassador to the Republic of Chile. [Text] [*JN0109143688 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 Sep 88*]

Departing Omani Ambassador

His Highness Prince Hasan ibn Talal, crown prince and regent of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, has received His Excellency Ambassador Bashir ibn Salim ibn Faraj, the Sultanate's ambassador to Jordan, who came to bid farewell to his highness on ending his tenure as extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary to Jordan. [Excerpt] [*JN2808150688 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Aug 88 JN*]

'Most' Iranian Guard Elements Leaving Beirut

LD0109142588 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Aug-6 Sep 88 pp 8, 9

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Between Iranian Withdrawal and Syrian Influence"]

[Text] Security information in the southern suburb of Beirut, which witnessed the well-known bloody battles between Amal and Hizballah last May, indicates that most of the Iranian [Revolutionary] Guard have left the area and returned to Iran after Tehran's acceptance of a cease-fire in the Gulf war and that their number, which reached nearly 500 at one point, does not now exceed 30 people residing mainly in private apartments in the Bir al-'Abd area and the Madi district (in the southern suburb). The same information indicates that the Guard elements who were supervising the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk in cooperation with local Hizballah leaders have also left for Iran.

The new situation has led to the emergence of stronger-than-ever Syrian influence among Hizballah ranks—something which could affect the fate of the Western hostages in Lebanon, who were a card in Iran's hand in the Lebanese arena. Western sources in Beirut say it is Syria which is using this card now, spiting Iran's desire to resolve the hostage crisis under the influence of its improving relations with the Western states. The sources recalled Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's meeting in Damascus 2 weeks ago with Lebanese Hizballah officials, among them Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and 'Abbas al-Musawi, at which the Western hostages issue was one of the primary issues discussed.

Despite contradictions about the whereabouts of the hostages, especially the Americans, some foreign reporters in Beirut say that they are most probably held in the Bir al-'Abd area under direct Hizballah supervision. It is known that the Syrian forces have been besieging the Bir al-'Abd area completely since their entry into the southern suburb following the May battles.

UAE Paper on Delay in Release of UK Hostages

JN0209064088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Aug 88 pp 1, 21

[By Rafiq Nasrallah]

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the release of the British hostages held in Lebanon—including Terry Waite, envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury—will be delayed until late November 1988. A prominent political source in Beirut stated to AL-ITTIHAD that the talks held by three members of the British intelligence service in Lebanon and John Brown, envoy of the Anglican church, with officials of the pro-Iranian Lebanese Hizballah have made tangible progress on agreeing on the implementation of a precondition set by the kidnappers. However, John Brown was informed of the kidnappers' desire to postpone the release of the hostages until late November 1988. That is because the Iranian side prefers to have the release of the British hostages as part of the release of all hostages, including the American hostages. That means the release of the hostages is deferred until the U.S. presidential elections, while at the same time the Iraqi-Iranian talks are going on.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that John Brown and the members of the British intelligence service have received real guarantees on the fate of the hostages, and that although they could not meet face-to-face with the hostages—as John Brown had hoped—they received through a mediator personal letters from the hostages to their families in Britain that included photographs of them in various poses. The British government has also received, through the British envoy, guarantees that the lives of the hostages will be protected until they are released. According to reports received, the conditions for the hostages have changed. For the past 3 weeks they have been held in the same place by Lebanese groups from Hizballah.

Brown concluded meetings with religious leaders in Beirut yesterday. After the meetings, Brown was optimistic the three British hostages will be released. However, he declined to specify the date of their release. The British Foreign Office said it has no information on the imminent release of the hostages. AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the contacts held by the Belgian ambassador to Lebanon and a Belgian envoy of Lebanese origin in southern Lebanon—including contacts with Dawud Dawud, an Amal official, and some Palestinian factions—did not succeed in uncovering the fate of the Belgian doctor Jan Cools who was kidnapped 2 months ago while leaving the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp south of Tyre. AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Amal has provided the Belgian ambassador with evidence that Cools is being held by Fatah-Revolutionary Council and that he is being held together with other hostages the said organization announced it had captured aboard a yacht in the high seas opposite the coast of occupied Palestine. Palestinian sources, however, said the Belgian doctor is being held by Amal in the Zifta area, notwithstanding Amal's denial.

'Imminent Aggression' by Israel Expected

NC0109120388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Security sources in the South report that Israel has mobilized more forces in the occupied Lebanese areas. These forces have been estimated at two armored brigades, an infantry brigade, an artillery battalion, and signal and electronic guidance units. According to the same sources, an imminent aggression is expected.

Israeli Planes Stage Mock Raids Over Sidon 2 Sep

NC0209081188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Sirens were sounded in Sidon at 1010 this morning after Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over the city and its camps.

Israel Releases 11 Detainees From Al-Khiyam Prison

NC0209062488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] The occupation authorities have released 11 detainees, including a woman, from the Al-Khiyam prison. The detainees left for their villages at 1000 yesterday.

Car Bomb Explodes in West Beirut; No Casualties

NC0209045488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] An explosion was heard in Corniche al-Mazra'ah [in West Beirut] at around 0600 today. It transpired that the blast was caused when a booby-trapped Volkswagen, which was parked in front of the Tabbarah shop, blew up. Shortly afterward, the Syrian security forces and internal security forces threw a security cordon around the scene of explosion, which caused material damage only.

Group Claims 'Suicide Attack' on Syrians; 1 Dead

NC0209053888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has announced that one of its groups launched a suicide attack on a Syrian occupation forces' position between the Cola bridge and the Sports City at 0215 today. A spokesman for the battalion said that the group used machineguns and rockets in the attack, which left one Syrian soldier dead and four others wounded. Two members of the group were injured, according to the spokesman.

Ja'ja' Says Election To Take Place on Time

NC0209061488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has reiterated his conviction that the presidential election will take place on time in view of the international efforts which are being made to this end. He affirmed that East Beirut has refrained from putting forward a presidential candidate in order to avoid confrontation with former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Dr Ja'ja' declared that the Lebanese Forces reject any U.S.-Syrian agreement on a Syrian-sponsored candidate. He ruled out the possibility that such an agreement would be reached. Dr Ja'ja' continued: The Lebanese Forces should have a say in international decisions which concern us.

In his interview with the MAGAZINE publication, Dr Ja'ja' pointed out that a conciliation president should be accepted by all. This president should have a strong personality and be capable of taking to everyone. He added that the election of Franjiyah would constitute a threat to the Lebanese regime as his election would mean that Syria would have control over Lebanon.

Chamber Speaker Views Political Scene

PM0109132188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Aug-6 Sep 88 pp 16-18

[Interview with Husayn al-Husayni, Chamber of Deputies speaker, by Muwaffaq Madani in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Madani] Will Lebanon lose its crucial chance to overcome the difficulties of electing a president for the republic? And is there any possibility of failing to elect the new president?

[Al-Husayni] Undoubtedly, Lebanon has been experiencing difficulties since these events started. But the main thing that has remained is that the Lebanese believe that the existence of Lebanon as a homeland is the most important thing. The Israeli scheme is aimed at fragmenting Lebanon in the same way as Cyprus was fragmented. But there is a big difference between Cyprus and Lebanon. While there are two peoples, two histories, two languages, and two races, let alone the two religions, in Cyprus, there is only one people, one heritage, one history, and similar aspirations and objectives in Lebanon—something which has aborted all attempts at fragmentation and all proposals invented to perpetuate partition in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Madani] A prominent deputy was quoted as saying that Lebanon is moving now from partition to division between the two regional parties: Israel's possession of the south, and the perpetuation of the Syrian presence. This means that the elections may not be held in Lebanon because of the failure of the first experiment.

[Al-Husayni] I cannot deny these fears. The elections may not be held as constitutionally scheduled. But we shall make efforts to hold them as constitutionally scheduled. Frankly I say that the stage of international accord should have reflected positively on the Lebanese crisis. It has reflected positively on numerous regions of the world as well as on regional centers of tension. When we were approaching the time for the Lebanese presidential elections, we felt that the Americans retreated from working toward a solution to the Lebanese crisis. I believe that the reason for this is the approaching U.S. presidential election and the ruling Republican Party's desire not to commit itself to anything that relates to Israel or the Middle East or the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Some people believe that foreign interference will occur regardless of the Lebanese people's stance. Some others believe that U.S. and Syrian interference led to the present result and that the moderates cannot make a move in isolation from these acts of interference.

[Al-Husayni] The accord in Lebanon is the accord of the moderates. There is no accord among extremists! There is nothing among extremists but division. And it is the accord of the moderates which will reunite Lebanon. I cannot deny the direct link between the Lebanese crisis and the region's crisis, though we are working hard to

resolve the Lebanese crisis in isolation from the region's crisis so that Lebanon will provide a natural access for a solution to that crisis. I believe that unless the Lebanese crisis is resolved, we will not achieve a solution in the region. This is because the present situation in Lebanon is bound to abort any attempt to resolve the region's crisis. And this is what Israel will rely on to abort any solution relating to the Middle East. [passage omitted]

[Madani] If the United States fails to pressure Israel to implement Resolution 425, then what is its role in securing a solution to the Lebanese crisis? And what is its position regarding the presidential elections?

[Al-Husayni] We do not want to elect a weak president, because the explosive stage was followed by a crisis and then the stage of deterioration which we are currently experiencing. We do not want a president to run the Lebanese crisis because we are in a stage of total collapse in respect to all state constituents. We are working to elect a president who will resolve the crisis rather than run it. That is why the U.S. Administration is abstaining from undertaking genuine commitments to help the new president. The U.S. factor has become passive by interfering to hamper the elections and by sympathizing with the militias that have obstructed the elections and instigated other militias to probably obstruct the elections at a future stage.

[Madani] Some people believe that Lebanon has now entered into a major cycle of division: The army was divided and then the executive authority, and now parliamentary divisions have emerged. Does this mean that the chamber and other legislative institutions are divided?

[Al-Husayni] This is completely untrue. The parliamentary chamber is still the institution that reflects Lebanon's unity. Solidarity among the deputies is clear. Proof of this is that the parliamentary meetings that followed the Thursday [18 August] session comprised all deputies.

[Madani] But are not the meetings one thing and a unified stand another?

[Al-Husayni] Who has prevented the elections from being held? Outwardly the isolated militias, and inwardly the U.S. Administration failure to fulfill its promises.

[Madani] But the eastern area [of Beirut] team believes that the postponement resulted from the nomination of a candidate of confrontation, who should be have been agreed upon in advance.

[Al-Husayni] It is not certain whether the participants would have elected Franjiyah president if the legal quorum had been reached. [passage omitted]

[Madani] There are those who are urging you to turn the Chamber of Deputies into a constituent body now that it has lost its unity as a parliamentary council.

[Al-Husayni] By no means do I accept that the chamber has lost its unity. The Chamber of Deputies still has the ability to maintain solidarity. The chamber still expresses the view of the Lebanese majority, as the Lebanese people have repudiated the militias over 14 years. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Who is the candidate of confrontation, and who is the candidate of accord?

[Al-Husayni] This is the question being raised by everyone. I say that the word accord is positive on the outside and conspiratorial against the country on the inside. I can only understand the word accord to mean accord among the militias—which would bring a president who would promise to keep the situation as it is, enabling the militias to control the people, impose solutions in isolation from the state, and seize amenities and ports. It is such solutions which have led to all the economic, social, security, and political disasters we are witnessing now. That is, unless what is intended, as specified by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, is a president confronting Israel—which is required at both the national and pan-Arab levels. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Will the Chamber of Deputies be able to secure the election of a new president for Lebanon if the process of electing a president continues for longer?

[Al-Husayni] We are engaged in a battle of survival: either to continue or to perish as a homeland. We are not going to subject our existence to the success of one session or the failure of another, because that is unrealistic. We are determined to elect a president whether at one, two, or three sessions; or even before or after 23 September.

[Madani] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah says that after that date you may not continue to hold sessions. Thus, the president of the republic will have to form a transitional government to fill the vacuum.

[Al-Husayni] I have read Dr Sa'adah's statement. He says that after 23 September the presidential terms ends and the powers of the president of the republic will then be transferred to the Council of Ministers, according to the stipulations of the Constitution. But Dr Sa'adah did not broach the election question. We are urged to elect a president within the constitutional deadline or after the end of the constitutional term.

[Madani] Some people hold you responsible, as the Islamic team, for boycotting the president of the republic, thus leading the Lebanese presidential elections to the present situation?

[Al-Husayni] We did not boycott the president of the Republic; I say this for the thousandth time. It was the president of the Republic who boycotted us, in the sense

that he chose to go elsewhere, away from us, and refused to discuss the accord question. What was being proposed, namely the tripartite agreement, was rejected. I myself have many objections to the tripartite agreement. But I cannot handle the accord question in the same way as President al-Jumayyil handled it. I must refer all matters to the constitutional institutions, which alone can deliberate on these matters. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Defeat of 'Isolationists'

JN0209094088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Isolationists Will Not Make Time Go Backward," AL-THAWRAH says: The isolationist forces wanted to make the date of the presidential elections a prelude to an explosion in the current situation and an attempt to make time run counterclockwise.

However, the Lebanese people, their nationalist forces, and their national resistance are alert and determined to foil the new conspiracy. They have taken the initiative to expose the new conspiratorial and sabotage scheme. They have stood firmly in the face of the agents of the United States and Israel.

They also have reaffirmed their determination to make the presidential elections date a prelude to the attainment of national accord, to entrench Lebanon's unity and Arab affilation, and to transform the occasion into a platform to launch a salvation march aimed at realizing their national and pan-Arab objectives.

The Lebanese masses and their forces, and their party, political, and spiritual leaders have reaffirmed their complete commitment to the national option and their total rejection of the isolationists' proposals. When viewed in their proper context, these are only U.S. and Israeli proposals whose aim is to undermine and destroy Lebanon, Zionize it, and make it the seat of and the gateway for U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against Syria and the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The time has come for the isolationist forces in Lebanon to realize that they base their stands on false calculations, and that they are running against the course of history.

The Lebanese people toppled the 17 May agreement, expelled the U.S. and NATO forces from Beirut, and repulsed the Israeli occupation from most of the Lebanese territories thanks to their resolute struggle and Syria's assistance and support.

They are capable of foiling the new conspiracy and imposing their will that is embodied in the attainment of national accord and political reforms, in the liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation, in the entrenchment of Lebanon's unity and Arab affiliation, in the elimination of all factors that have brought about the crisis, and in the purging of Lebanon from the filth which spoils it.

All indications confirm that the Lebanese nationalist forces and their masses are those who have the initiative in their hands for completing the march of salvation in Lebanon and for bringing it to safe shores, and that Israel and its agents will only reap disappointment and the collapse of their schemes to fragment Lebanon and undermine it.

Afghanistan

'Criminals' Shell Kabul City; Airport Hit

LD0109165188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] The criminals attached to the armed extremist bands once again shelled the residential areas of the city of Kabul with heavy weapons this evening and have martyred or injured a number of innocent children and other citizens.

The report adds that this evening the criminals shelled with heavy weapons some residential regions in the 8th, 9th and 10th Wards of the city. As a result, four of our compatriots were martyred including children, and another nine persons were injured.

Shelling by the criminal elements caused a fire at Kabul International Airport, which was extinguished through the efforts of the firemen.

30 Reported Killed at Airport

AU0209082788 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Moscow, Sept 2 (AFP)—Two military transport planes and a helicopter were destroyed on the tarmac at Kabul airport in guerrilla rocket attacks on Thursday, which left "around 30 people dead", according to Western diplomatic sources in the Afghan capital reached on Friday.

TASS news agency gave the toll as nine dead and 21 injured and said 48 rockets had been fired.

Diplomats in Kabul had counted 35 rockets. They said most of them had fallen in the vicinity of the airport, causing extensive damage. Explosions of chaff and munitions at a depot spewed thick smoke into the air for half an hour.

One Western diplomat said several Soviet military personnel had been killed.

Rockets also reportedly fell on residential areas, including the "microrayon" where Soviet personnel live.

Two rockets fell near the French Embassy, which is close to the president's residence. The rockets were fired in the mid-afternoon and Afghan and Soviet troops did not respond, the diplomats said.

One diplomat suggested that the attacks were the fiercest since August 27, when the Soviet media spoke of 127 rockets being fired at Kabul, a figure which Western diplomats said was "exaggerated".

Najibullah Attends Political Parties Meeting

LD0209061788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0443 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 1, BAKHTAR—The first extensive session of the leadership of the political parties and organisations of Afghanistan was held here today.

The president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Najibullah, leaders and representatives of the Revolutionary Organisation of the Working People party of Afghanistan (ROWPA), Organisation of the Working People of Afghanistan (OWPA), Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan (IPPA), the Peasant Justice Party of Afghanistan (PJPA), the Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan, Fedayaan, and the Union of Ansarullah took part in the session.

In the work of the session of president of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah in his speech delivered at the session said:

Undoubtedly, the multi-party system is the greatest achievement of the policy of national reconciliation and the multi-party system certainly is one of the basic achievements of democracy and our Constitution, said President Najibullah.

If we take into account the two years ago parties which have joined the People's Democratic Party, and the parties included in left wing democratic alliance, at present there are twelve political parties in the country. This constitutes a good foundation for the solution of socio-political problems in our society, Najibullah pointed out.

(All) parties and social organisations should act in a united front. This front should be a front for defending the Constitution, independence, national sovereignty and state coalition administration, President Najibullah said.

The urgent cessation of war, Najibullah continued to say, is the only way for the democratisation of our society. An automatic [as received] state is not our aspiration. The parties and groups which contribute towards the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation are gaining historical credit.

Later, the leaders of the political parties and organisations of Afghanistan described the importance of the meeting for the unification of the political parties and organisations towards the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation. They, in their speeches, pledged to make efforts in the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation. The meeting was concluded with the adoption of a resolution.

Vardak Officials Sentenced for 'Timidity'

LD0109101788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] A spokesman of the Special National Security Court of the Republic of Afghanistan has told BIA that the trial of ex-officials of Vardak Province—who, as a result of timidity and complacency in carrying out their duty, provided a platform for subversive actions by extremist forces in Vardak Province—ended today.

After considering the charges, the defense, and the evidence, the court, on the basis of Articles 19 and 20 of the Military Penal Code of the Republic of Afghanistan, convicted 6 of the accused and sentenced each according to the nature of their crime.

Konduz People's Militia Receive Awards

LD0109100888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Badges and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan were recently presented to a number of the officers and men of the Konduz Province people's militia and of the Balkh mountain unit who helped clear Konduz Province of the warmongering extremists and restored peace and security, by the deputy minister for security of the Internal Affairs Ministry, Major General Nur Muhammad Sarawzawal. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Take Control of 2 Provincial Capitals

BK0109155088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the provincial capitals of Bamian and Taleqan are under complete control of the mujahidin. The mujahidin are reported to have increased their pressure on important highways north and south of Kabul. Fierce fighting is raging around Qandahar and other provincial capitals. According to another report, the mujahidin have captured about 10 villages in Jowzjan Province and 5 new posts set up near the city of Parvan.

Latest reports say more than 1,000 soldiers of the Kabul regime have joined the mujahidin along with their arms in Badakhshan Province.

Bangladesh

Ershad Urges Unity in 'Alarming' Flood Situation

BK0109145888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The floods, which are ravaging Bangladesh at the moment, are the worst in the living memory. More than 20 million people have been affected by flooding by the rivers Brahmaputra, Ganges, the Meghna, and their tributaries. There is practically no dry patch of land in 17 districts in northern and central Bangladesh, while 39 out of 64 districts of the country are now under its grip. Millions of people, who have become homeless because of the recurrent surge of water, have taken shelter in the relief camps opened by the Bangladesh Government or are living in the open on highways, [words indistinct], and river embankments. In most areas, even these elevated places have come under water.

Floods have so far claimed over 246 lives, according to official sources. The repeated waves of floods since early July have caused unprecedented destructions. In the past 2 weeks, water rose so rapidly in the rivers and had engulfed several districts simultaneously that there are very little time to take precautionary measures.

President Ershad who has been visiting to the affected parts of the country, assuring the stricken families of his government's total mobilization to give succor to them, has described the situation as alarming. At a news conference on Wednesday [31 August], he said the nation has never faced such a natural disaster before. We have to tackle this challenge like a single family, the president said, while calling for a united resolve to save the thousands of families from hunger and diseases in the wake of the deluge. The Bangladesh Government (?has) already geared the administration for distributing relief, rescuing marooned people, and taking care of the (?state).

A state of high alert has been imposed in all the districts and upazila [subdistrict] administration headquarters so that an agricultural recovery program can be started as soon as the water recedes from the affected areas. According to reports, the water level has been slowly receding in Brahmaputra basin in the upper northern districts of Dinajpur, Kurigram, and Gaibanda. But thousands of others are becoming fresh refugees as water level broke all records in northern, eastern, and central Bangladesh. Most of high lands which were never flooded before have gone under several feet of water.

Even three parts of the Dhaka City are under water and more than 100,000 people have been housed in [word indistinct] shelters set up in schools, community centers, and under construction buildings. The president underlined the havoc saying that in areas there have been no dry places to house the flood victims. Everybody is affected and there is nobody to help others. The president said, in fact, volunteers have become scarce because the volunteers themselves have their houses flooded and their belongings washed away.

It is nearly impossible for a country to tackle such a calamity alone. The president in view of the extremely grave situation has launched an international appeal for (?food) and other aid from friendly countries and other donor nations. He said although there were 1.2 million tons of foodgrains in stock, the country needs another 2 million tons on an emergency basis to meet the shortfall caused by the destructions of the main Aman rice harvest to the tune of 8 million tons.

[Word indistinct] practically all surface means like highways and railways have been disrupted. The only means of reaching food to the distressed families is by air. But the paucity of helicopters is the real obstacle in the transportation of food which is necessary to avoid hunger. The government has sought loans of helicopters and crew from friendly nations to meet the challenge of quick transportation. The mission in its own part is to overcome the crisis posed by the country's worst natural disaster. Army units with mechanized boats are engaged in the task of bringing the marooned people to places of safety. (?The forces) are also distributing relief goods to isolated homesteads in different circumstances than the last year's flood which was said to be the worst in 40 years.

Despite the harrowing suffering, the people have shown high morale in the last 2 weeks. Those still unaffected by the deluge have come forward to contribute to the president's relief fund. Even school children have forgone their tiffins to donate to the fund to help their distressed friends in the thousands of villages floating in the water. But all these efforts are not enough to cope with such calamities of colossal magnitude, and hence need for a gigantic international cooperation. As before, the world community this time also will come in a big way to the side of millions of flood-stricken people of Bangladesh.

India

Afghan Foreign Minister Makes 'Unannounced' Visit

BK0209085688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 2 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil has arrived in India on an unannounced four-day visit, a spokesman for the Afghan Embassy said Friday [2 September].

The spokesman declined to say who Mr. 'Abdul Wakil would be seeing during his stay in New Delhi, but added that he had arrived Thursday and was scheduled to leave Sunday.

(Afghanistan's official BAKHTAR news agency in a report monitored in Islamabad said that Mr. Wakil met with Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao in New Delhi to discuss "the latest developments in the situation in Afghanistan."

(The agency said that Mr. Wakil had left Kabul to attend a ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Nicosia next week.

("The two parties stressed the importance of the conference of the Non-Aligned Movement," the report said.)

An Indian Government spokesman was not immediately available for comment on the visit.

New Delhi maintains close ties with Kabul. Afghan President Najibullah paid an official visit to India last May after the Soviet Union promised to withdraw its troops in Afghanistan.

The non-aligned conference, which starts on Monday, is to decide which country will succeed Zimbabwe as head of the movement. Indonesia and Nicaragua have both submitted their candidacies.

Meets External Affairs Ministers

LD0109213088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, leading a delegation, left Kabul this morning for Delhi and Nicosia.

At Kabul International Airport Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil was seen off by Muhammad Faruq Karmand and 'Abdul Ghafar Watanwal, deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Muhammad Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser and chief of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and His Excellency Inder Pal Khosla, ambassador and extraordinary representative of India in Kabul.

The foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, after a friendly visit to Delhi, will then take part in the nonaligned foreign ministers session which will be held in Nicosia.

According to another report Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil met His Excellency Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs of India. During this meeting Afghanistan's foreign minister gave a detailed briefing on the recent developments in the country and the status of the Geneva accords. They exchanged views on broadening relations between the two countries, as well as other regional and international issues. Both sides also emphasized the importance of the nonaligned foreign ministers session which will be held in Nicosia.

Commentary on Trade Relations With Afghanistan

BK0109113188 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Commentary by S. Sethuraman]

[Text] The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan now underway in terms of the Geneva accords should in course of time help Afghanistan to resume an active role as an independent nonaligned country. Though there are resistance forces still operating against the Kabul Government and an estimated 2 to 3 million refugees now in Pakistan are yet to return to their home, there are strong hopes that war-ravaged Afghanistan would in the near future settle down to the task of reconstruction and economic development.

Afghanistan, bordering on Pakistan, is much closer to the South Asian region and friendly relations with India date back to a long period. Its place would appropriately be in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—which now comprises India and six other countries of the region. Although Afghanistan has been a member of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, it has borrowed only negligible sums from these organizations.

The flows of official development assistance to Afghanistan from outside the Soviet bloc has also been extremely limited, especially since 1980. Economic data of recent years is not readily available but between in 1965 and 1980, Afghanistan's gross domestic product grew at an average of 2.9 percent per annum. In 1986, the country's exports totalled $552 millions, while its imports were much higher at $1,404 millions.

Afghanistan mainly exports primary commodities, especially dry fruits, spices, medicinal herbs and some minerals. It also exports natural gas. Afghanistan's imports are mainly made up of machinery and manufacture, beside a part of its food requirement.

The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist bloc are the major trading partners for Afghanistan. Indo-Afghan trade has so far been of modest proportion. In 1985-86, India's exports totalled 160 million rupees and a close to over 200 million rupees in 1986-87.

Imports from Afghanistan were higher than India's exports last year. The trade balance was in Afghanistan's favor in 1986-87.

Major exports to Afghanistan includes tea, jute manufacture, machinery, transport equipment, tires, pharmaceuticals and others. Imports are mainly of fresh and dry fruits and spices. An exclusive Indian trade exhibition was organized in Kabul in June 1987 to promote larger trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Fifty Indian parties participated in the fair organized by the Trade Fair Authority of India and a wide range of products were displayed. Spot orders were placed for many items, including machinery, dry batteries, TV sets and motorcycles.

The two countries are agreed that the two-way trade of the order of barely 40 million dollars is insignificant and that there is scope for a much larger trade flow between them. The visit of an Afghan business delegation to India this week is a significant development in enlarging trade and cooperation between the two countries. The two sides have signed an agreement to set up a joint business council, which will provide an institutional framework for furthering trade and industrial cooperation.

The leader of the Afghan delegation, Mr Muhammad Hakim, has invited Indian business enterprises to invest in small and medium industries in Afghanistan. He said his country had identified 176 projects, which would be set up in the small and medium sectors. Conditions for investment in Afghanistan has been made easier and attractive, he stated. The Afghan side maintained that with more competitive pricing and better quality, Indian goods would find easier access to the Afghan market.

The vice president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for a systematic effort to broad base the commodity trade between the two countries.

Minister Clarifies Assault on Opposition Members

BK0209040088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, has stoutly denied the opposition allegation that the prime minister was not willing to meet the delegation of the Andhra Pradesh legislators yesterday. The prime minister, he said, had, in fact, agreed to meet the delegation in his office at Parliament House during the course of the day. This was conveyed to the leaders of the delegation.

Mr Chidambaram was replying to the clarifications sought by the members of the Rajya Sabha on the statement he made on the alleged lathi [baton] charge on the processionists, who were trying to go to the prime minister's house. Mr Chidambaram said they did not have the permission to take out a procession. He also denied the allegation that he had ordered a police lathi charge. On the contrary, he said, on receipt of first information about the incident, he immediately asked the police commissioner and the additional police commissioner to proceed to the site and inquire if anybody was injured and the circumstances which led to the incident.

Mr Chidambaram said most of the opposition members of the house, who are making allegations about the incident, were not present. He said only the Telugu Desam legislators and the police were there at the site of the incident. His statement is based on the police report, he added.

The minister's clarifications were repeatedly interrupted by the opposition members, who were alleging that the minister's reply was false. Most of the opposition members demanded that the minister should express regret over the incident. Not satisfied with the minister's reply, almost the entire opposition then walked out of the house, while some of them were seen tearing off the copies of the minister's statement.

Earlier, seeking clarifications, the opposition members explained that it was not a demonstration, but a peaceful march to the prime minister's house to submit a memorandum of their demand. Opposition members said that the prime minister, who was present in the house during the question hour, could have expressed his desire, if he had really wanted to meet the delegation.

At this, the deputy chairman, Mrs Pratibha Patil, said that after leaders of both sides had met the chairman at his chamber, the prime minister had expressed his willingness to this effect. But as the members were in no mood to listen, this could not have happened. [sentence as heard] When the minister started his statement, the opposition members termed it as false and baseless. This led to heated exchanges between the two sides.

3 Terrorists Killed in Punjab 'Encounter'

BK0209032188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists were killed and two men of the security forces seriously injured in an encounter in Gurdaspur District last night. According to the state director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, the killed terrorist had, earlier in the evening, shot dead a shopkeeper and seriously injured another in Kadian town. In a swift action, the chasing party of security forces surrounded the terrorists in a sugarcane field in village Buthar. The encounter which followed lasted for over 4 hours.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0209121988 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2, IRNA—The acting armed forces commander-in-chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said Iranian Muslims should maintain their alertness in case the enemy tries any new mischief, if not they will not reach a lasting peace.

He said the Islamic Republic is adhering to the ceasefire and is committed to attaining a lasting peace but made it clear that all the country's resources should still be at the service of war efforts.

The Majlis speaker, addressing a multitudinous group of prayer-goers at Tehran University campus and its adjacent streets here, said no one should think that the war is over.

The substitute Friday prayer leader, quoting the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, said since the enemies are still plotting against the Islamic Revolution, it is necessary for people and officials to be vigilant and on guard.

"It is necessary for us neither to back down from our principles nor give up our rights," the acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief said.

Referring to the enemy's war mongering nature, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said as they (enemies) initiated the war they are now likely to jeopardize peace, and the likelihood is so strong the Islamic Republic cannot afford to overlook it.

He pointed out that the Islamic Republic's stance on ceasefire and negotiations helped unmask the Baghdad regime's war mongering nature for the whole world to see.

Iraq's excuses (i.e. its insistence on dredging the Arvand River) indicates that the Ba'thist regime ruling Baghdad still harbors ill intentions, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

The world is beginning to realize that Islamic Iran is a true peace lover, while it is clear to everybody Iraq's Ba'thist regime which imposed the war with the prime goal of gaining control of the Arvand River is now trying to rekindle the flames of war by repeating its aborted claim on the waterway, said the Majlis speaker.

On the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni's viewpoints on post-war reconstruction projects in the country, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that as the imam stressed, people should contribute towards reconstruction programmes under the government's supervision. However, he noted, nobody should think that once the war comes to an end, all problems will be resolved at once.

Elsewhere in his sermon, the acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief referred to Government Week (Aug. 27-Sept. 2) which marks the martyrdom anniversary of President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Premier Mohammad Javad Bahonar and paid glowing tribute to them. Thanks to the blood of these martyrs Iran's Muslims came to realize the righteousness of their revolutionary leaders, he added.

President Raja'i and Premier Bahonar were martyred on August 30, 1981, when a bomb planted by elements of the terrorist Monafeqin (hypocrites) Khalq Iran [as received] (MKO) went off at prime minister's office.

The substitute Friday prayer leader towards the end of his second sermon spoke in Arabic before the start of the Friday prayers.

The first pre-sermon speaker this week was governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic Majid Qasemi, who elaborated on the passing of a law by the Majlis on interest-free banking system.

Talks on UN Resolution Continue in Geneva

Velayati on Hostages

LD0209155388 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1344 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Iran's foreign minister pledged today to do what he could to secure the release of Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, and two other British hostages held in Lebanon.

He also said that "high-ranking officials" of the pro-Iranian groups believed to be holding the hostages had also promised to "do their best".

But he warned there was no direct action his country could take to release Mr Waite, journalist John McCarthy, and teacher Brian Keenan, believed to be held by pro-Iranian guerrilla groups in Beirut.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said he had been informed unofficially and informally that there was "some good news". He added: "I hope that both sides can do their best for the release of these hostages of both sides."

Dr Velayati, speaking on BBC radio, was referring to parallel Iranian efforts to secure the release of four hostages held by Christian militiamen in Beirut.

He promised positive help to get the British hostages released. "We will do our best," he said, adding that the speed at which this could happen depended on "other possibilities."

He said he had "no specific information" whether the British hostages were still alive and well.

"But our general recommendation to our friendly groups (in Lebanon) is to try to find out in which place these hostages are, and how they can help us to release them," he said.

He disclosed that he had raised the issue in face-to-face talks with leaders of the pro-Iranian groups. But he suggested that the leaders themselves might not be in control of the situation.

He said: "It doesn't mean that the high-ranking officials of these groups are involved in these matters. We asked them to try to see how they can help, and they promised me that they also will do their best."

Iran's pledge follows the Church of England's efforts to assist Tehran in discovering the fate of three Iranians and their Lebanese driver who disappeared in Lebanon six years ago.

The archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to Lebanon, the Rt Rev John Brown, returned from Beirut earlier this week where he met Muslim leaders.

Dr Velayati said of the bishop's meetings: "He has some good news. I hope both sides could do their best for the releasing of these hostages on both sides."

It is widely believed the Iranians were killed within days of being kidnapped, but Iran still wants positive news about their fate. The foreign minister's comments follow the recent thaw in relations between Britain and Iran. After a two-week visit last month to Tehran by British diplomat Mr David Reddaway, the Foreign Office said it was sending a trade envoy to assist British businesses at a trade fair in Iran later this month.

However, Britain has repeatedly ruled out making any deals for the release of the hostages.

Velayati on 'Strange Encounter'

PM0109113288 Paris LE MONDE in French 1 Sep 88 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Jean Gueyras in Geneva; date not given]

[Text] Geneva—While negotiations in Geneva between Iran and Iraq are marking time, Imam Khomeyni stressed Tuesday 30 August that the Iranian people must not regard the war with their neighbor as over. "We must not believe that the war is over. We must consider ourselves at war," he told President 'Ali Khamene'i, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, and several members of the government.

The Iranian Army, Imam Khomeyni added in remarks reported by Tehran Radio, must be ready for all eventualities: Iran's enemies are still plotting against Tehran. To accept a cease-fire with Iraq without President Saddam Husayn's overthrow would be worse than drinking poison, he said, adding: "Our enemies—whether the major ones, such as America and the Soviet Union, or their lackeys, such as Saddam and his ilk—are constantly hatching plots because they are opposed to Islam and recognize that Islam has become a major power in the world."

"Let us say that things are not going as well as expected." Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati began by trying to play down the situation. True, since the start of the Iranian-Iraqi negotiations about a week ago, little progress has been made in "the strange encounter" between Iran and Iraq in Geneva's Palace of Nations. The talks are threatened with deadlock and it seems that only an initiative by Perez de Cuellar can still salvage the negotiations.

A youthful 45, Velayati, who abandoned a brilliant career as a pediatrician to devote himself for the past 10 years to a diplomatic career, has all the qualities of a seasoned negotiator. First, stubbornness—he refuses to shift one iota from the sacrosanct UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which in fact took over a year for Iran to accept—and also an imperturbability combined with humor. He burst out laughing when asked about the "direct" nature of negotiations with the Iraqis: "Let us say, rather," he replied, "that they are triangular negotiations." He said that even after a week he has still not spoken with his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq 'Aziz. "I speak with him only via Mr Perez de Cuellar; you cannot really speak in terms of direct negotiations or a real encounter."

Is there any hope that some day there will be a real Iranian-Iraqi encounter without Perez de Cuellar? "Yes," he replied unhesitatingly, "as soon as we have the feeling and the certainty that the Iraqis are full of goodwill."

For the time being this is still a long way off and Mr Velayati, who received us in the elegant drawing room of the Iranian ambassador's residence in Geneva, accompanied by several members of the Iranian delegation—largely composed of technocrats trained in the West—deplored the stubbornness and aggressiveness of the Iraqis, whom he considers principally responsible for the deadlock. "The time," he said, "has not yet come to talk about possible clearing operations in the Shatt al-'Arab. The cease-fire has only just been declared. To consolidate it we must follow the sequence laid down by Resolution No 598: the immediate withdrawal of all forces behind internationally recognized borders followed by the return of prisoners of war, before broaching other matters. Nobody can honestly say that the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab takes priority over the return of prisoners of war to their homes."

According to Velayati, the Iraqis are multiplying their "conditions" to perpetuate the state of war and "wrest concessions from us." He revealed to us in this connection that Baghdad's army still occupies over 1,000 square km of territory in Iran, including two cities—Khosravi and Naft-e Shah—as well as several villages. "As far as we are concerned," he said, "we have withdrawn completely from all the areas of Iraqi territory that we occupied because we have accepted Resolution No 598. This is why we are no longer in Iraqi Kurdistan but only on its border. If they really want peace they must therefore, first, evacuate all the territories that they still occupy in Iran.

However, it is doubtful that they accept Resolution No 598 in its entirety, particularly because of its sixth paragraph, which envisages the establishment of an impartial body to investigate the responsibility for the conflict. They know that they are the aggressors. Also they do not like the wording of this paragraph."

I asked whether he did not believe that a "concession" by Iran, specifically over the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab, could help unblock the crisis and thus facilitate implementation of Resolution No 598, which is what the Iranians apparently want. His answer was not long in coming and reflects the mistrust that has been established between the two countries after 8 years of war: "We are here to achieve implementation of this resolution. If we yield to Iraqi demands we have no guarantee that they will not formulate other equally restrictive conditions. They have sat down at the negotiating table and want even more concessions instead of displaying goodwill. Why should we be the only ones to make concessions?"

Velayati believes that, contrary to what the Iraqis say, Iran is fully entitled to inspect and search ships sailing in the Iranian territorial waters of the Strait of Hormuz. "The Iraqis," he said, "are very well aware that it is our right. They believe, however, that we should show goodwill and not exercise this right. Very well, we are willing to show goodwill—but only on a reciprocal basis."

Tehran's foreign minister believes that once the dispute over the forces' withdrawal behind internationally recognized borders has been resolved, that of the repatriation of prisoners of war will not pose any particular difficulties. "In fact, it all depends on the UN secretary general, who must announce the starting date for returning the prisoners of war, as envisaged by his timetable, but unfortunately the conditions set by the Iraqis have delayed the implementation of the calendar." Velayati believes that the repatriation should take place voluntarily. If some soldiers do not want to return home, he believes they should be questioned by International Red Cross representatives in complete privacy and in the absence of the authorities.

Velayati on Iraq, Shatt al-'Arab

JN0209065088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Aug 88 pp 1, 21

[Text] Geneva, AL-ITTHAD, AFP—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stated that his country will not enter into direct negotiations with Iraq so long as the latter sets preconditions such as the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab. He said that the settlement of the problems that are pending between the two countries within the framework of international Resolution No 598 means that the implementation of the resolution will last for many years.

Velayati said that Iraq behaves as if the cease-fire means peace. He affirmed that his country is willing to grant Iraqi ships the right of safe passage through the Gulf while reserving for itself the right to search vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz. He added that his country hopes that all prisoners of war, including Egyptian prisoners, will be released.

Velayati denied that his country has procrastinated in accepting Resolution 598. He said that Iran has been calling for replacing Article No 1 with Article No 6 as a condition for accepting the resolution in order to give priority to the article which calls for naming the party responsible for starting the war.

In reply to a question by AL-ITTIHAD on why Iran rejects the Iraqi proposal to start clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, Velayati said that the Iranian delegation is in Geneva to discuss ways for implementing Resolution No 598 and not to carry out Iraq's demands. He said that the question of clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterwayb can be discussed following the agreement on enforcing the cease-fire and establishing peace.

In reply to a question on why Iran ignores the provision in Article No 1 of Resolution No 598 on a cease-fire at sea, Velayati said that although Iran does not object to the passage by Iraqi vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, he said that "we cannot deal with them in our territorial waters as if there are no problems between us and while their forces still occupy 1,000 square km of our territory, two oil cities, and Khosrovi." He added that

Iraq's complete right to transit through the Strait of Hormuz could be realized with the progress of peace. He added: Half of the Strait of Hormuz falls within our territorial waters. He said that his country reserves the right to search Iraqi vessels while admitting "that this is a hostile act in the same manner that Iraq's occupation of our territory is a hostile act".

Velayati stressed that his country is committed to the implementation of Resolution No 598 within the framework that the UN secretary general had defined. He said that the second article in the resolution following the one on the cease-fire is the article on the withdrawal from the territory of others. Commenting on this, Velayati said: The cease-fire became effective 11 days ago and withdrawal has not taken place. Is the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab more important than withdrawing troops? He affirmed that in this respect the international resolution does not mention the Shatt al-'Arab.

Velayati said that with respect to the Shatt al-'Arab and even if Iraq has reservations on the Algiers agreement, Shatt al-'Arab was not Arab before the Algiers agreement in accordance with the thalweg rule. He pointed out that Iraq and Iran signed agreements in 1969, 1975, and 1976 on the demarcation of the permanent borders between the two countries and on the settlement of the issue of the sharing of the Shatt al-'Arab.

The Iranian minister denied that there are any direct or indirect contacts between his country and Egypt. He said that his country looks at the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran from a humanitarian angle and hopes that they will be released soon.

On his expectations with respect to peace opportunities with Iraq, Velayati said: We do not welcome hostility between the two Muslim countries and people. He added that no two people are as close as the Iraqi and Iranian people.

Velayati on Timeframe

NC0209065688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers under the supervision of the UN secretary general will resume in Geneva today after an interval of 4 days, according to an IRNA report. The report adds that since last Sunday the Geneva talks have been continuing at the level of experts. Today's talks will take place separately between the foreign ministers and Jan Eliasson, the Swedish envoy to the United Nations, who is the personal representative of Javier Perez de Cuellar. Diplomatic and news circles in Geneva are describing these talks as extremely important.

It may be recalled that the talks between the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq in Geneva, designed to specify a timeframe for the implementation of Resolution No 598, were obstructed at the beginning of the week by preconditions laid down by the Iraqi delegation. In light of Perez de Cuellar's visit to Portugal, Jan Eliasson, the Swedish envoy to the United Nations, was appointed as his representative for the Geneva talks last night. Perez de Cuellar said at the time of his departure from Geneva that, if necessary, he will return to Geneva.

Our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati commented on the Geneva talks in an interview with IRNA last night. He said: We will continue our exchange of views with members of the Security Council and friendly countries, and we will keep them informed of the situation. He stressed: In this exchange, we have not encountered any differences of opinion opposed to our principles. Asked whether the departure of the UN secretary general from Geneva and the appointment of a replacement will have a negative effect on the trend of the talks, Mr Velayati said: This is a temporary situation and the UN secretary general will come back to Geneva. He added: The UN secretary general asked us to remain to Geneva and to continue the talks. Our foreign minister said: The talks are encountering difficulties in making progress due to Iraq's hedging. He emphasized, however, that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not barter its principles under any circumstances.

Our country's foreign minister declared that the progress of the talks depends on the efforts of the UN secretary general and the support of the Security Council for his steps to implement the various clauses of Resolution No 598. According to the report, Mr Velayati said in the course of this interview that in an unexpected meeting at midnight on Wednesday, the UN secretary general presented his latest proposals regarding the timeframe for the implementation of the text of the resolution and its relevant issues, giving the Iranians his suggestions in an unofficial note. Iran gave him its reply yesterday after studying the note. Our country's foreign minister stressed that the discussions at this meeting were on the precise implementation of the resolution and the stipulation of the timeframe for its implementation.

Discussing talks with the team of experts, Velayati said: The talks with the experts on the stipulation of a timeframe and the proposals of the two countries continue. He said: There are indications that the timeframe for the implementation of the Resolution No 598 is being prepared. According to this report, informed sources in Geneva consider it probable that the formulation of this timeframe will be complete in the next few days.

Velayati, Eliasson Hold Talks

LD0209101088 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT dd 2 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati entered the U.N. European headquarters here at 10:30 for the first round of official talks with the special representative of the U.N. chief Jan Eliasson.

Eliasson was introduced by Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday before the secretary general's departure to Lisbon, Portugal.

Eliasson who is the Swedish ambassador to the United Nations was assistant to the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme when he was special U.N. envoy on the Iraq-Iran conflict for six years (1980-1986).

Eliasson is also expected to hold separate meeting with the Iraqi side headed by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Eliasson told reporters yesterday he hoped too much [as received] to have the strong support of the parties as the U.N. chief's assistant.

Sources here have expressed hope today's first round official talks between the U.N. representative and Iranian and Iraqi delegations will open the way for a progress in the talks which have been stalled due to the Baghdad government's setting of preconditions.

Velayati Comments on Meeting

LD0209122788 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept.2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held a 90-minute meeting with the special representative of the United Nation's secretary general here this morning in the first round of official talks with Jan Eliasson who replaced Perez de Cuellar Thurdsay.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was expected to meet Eliasson shortly.

Velayati told reporters after the meeting that there were still some "difficulties" and deplored Iraq for raising "new preconditions every day."

He accused Baghdad of violating the Aug. 20 ceasefire in more than 60 cases saying that this had been reported to the U.N. Secretariat.

Velayati said after the establishment of ceasefire on Aug. 20 the Iraqis asked for "face-to-face" talks and after that raised such unrelated pretexts as clearing the Arvand River (or Shatt al-'Arab) and later tried to undermine Iran's right in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

"We do hope that in the future we will not face new preconditions (by the Iraqi side)," he remarked.

The Iranian foreign minister reiterated his country's full preparedness to continue cooperation with the U.N. chief and his personal representative for the Iran-Iraq conflict Jan Eliasson.

He said he was also glad that the secretary general will continue his supervision over the peace talks despite his appointment of Eliasson to take care of the matter in his absence.

Khamene'i Message Read at Disarmament Talks

LD0109134588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Our Geneva correspondent reports on the remarks made by Foreign Minister Velayati at the disarmament conference.

With the message of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the speech delivered by our foreign minister, Iran's term as president of the disarmament conference began at noon today. In today's ceremonies, first, the message of President Seyyed Ali Khamene'i was read. While expressing hopes that the disarmament conference will be the source of important decision-making for mankind's society, the president's message noted: The absence of serious reaction on the part of the international community in the face of the blatant violation of the UN Charter and other international regulations by the aggressor powers without doubt prevents the realization of general disarmament, and poses dangers to the achievement of true world peace.

The message, which was read by Mr Velayati to the representatives of 40 countries present in the UN building in Geneva, refers to Iraq's aggression against Iran. The message announced: It is now the responsibility of the international community to uphold this responsibility in the process of the implementation of UN Resolution No 598, and to adopt just and principled positions based on justice and fairness in order to make some real effort towards (?resolving) the issue of aggression, and thus contribute toward the establishment of lasting peace in the region and in the world.

The Iranian president's message, referring to the extensive use of chemical weapons as one of the last inhumane acts, emphasizes that the lack of adequate attention and lack of practical decision to prevent the mindless and repeated use of chemical weapons, even against civilians and rural inhabitants, will create a dangerous precedent in the further use of these deadly weapons. This, without doubt, will pose a serious danger to world security and peace.

Doctor Velayati then addressed the conference. He said: Disarmament and control over the arms race will acquire a meaning when it is implemented within the framework of guarantees for the security of all countries. In the absence of this kind of guarantee it is (?natural) that countries will try to achieve their security through the arms race. The foreign minister then referred to the adoption of a reliable international system, and an organization with the right qualities to effectively confront the violations of international regulations. He said: The people of the world can be sure that in the event of their security being threatened, the international community will rush to their assistance. One way to grant this peace of mind is to respect international regulations, the UN Charter, and international criteria and values.

Our foreign minister, without direct reference to Iraq's use of chemical weapons, regretted violations of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Dr Velayati then described in detail the positions of Iran with regard to the outcome of the third special UN General Assembly session concerning disarmament, chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, the arms race in space, and radiological [as heard] weapons.

In conclusion, Velayati appointed Dr 'Ali Shams-e Ardakani) as chairman of the meeting, and the disarmament committee continued its work under his chairmanship. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Expresses View on Cease-Fire
NC0209042788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1730 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Interview with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and Majlis speaker, by an unidentified correspondent—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during the past 2 days you held meetings with commanders of the Armed Forces and the IRGC and visited some border regions. In view of these meetings and your recent visit, please comment on the situation on the war fronts since the declaration of the cease-fire.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. A good and noteworthy force, thank God, is still clearly obvious since the acceptance of the cease-fire and since the proof of Iraq's insincerity, especially in view of the aggressions that it carried out after the acceptance of the cease-fire. The commanders have maintained their presence on the fronts, the alertness of our troops in the south is very high, and the coordination between the Armed Forces and the IRGC is satisfactory.

I have come here both to see the situation on the fronts and to check the programs that our forces, commanders, and bases have put into effect, as well as to have close contact with the commanders and to see their problems and their needs, especially since the possibility that the peace talks may create some slackness and indifference among the troops must have been seen on the spot. What I have seen during the past 2 days has been satisfactory, as far as the obedience by the troops from the leadership and the decisions by the officials are concerned. They have very carefully observed the cease-fire, despite the fact that in some cases the Iraqis' impudence was evident. They tolerated this. The discipline among the forces was very interesting. [Words indistinct] was also on a satisfactory level. It was necessary to study the needs of the fronts and now competent organs must discuss them.

[Correspondent] In recent days, there were several cases of violations of the cease-fire by the Iraqi Army and hundreds of our troops were taken captive. What will the Islamic Republic's approach be to these violations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Naturally whatever happens on the fronts should be answered by the combatants. The orders that we have issued to the forces and what I pointed out during my present visit is that we should not take the first step in any type of violation of the cease-fire. However, if we see any enemy violations—if it fires, or advances, or does anything else, or strengthens the line—our forces will do exactly what the Iraqis have done. Iraq's violations of the cease-fire so far have been announced on the radio. In some cases these violations were very impudent—especially in the case of the hostage-taking which you referred to.

The situation was this: The night before the cease-fire our forces advanced and took up a position. Unfortunately, the mediation forces there did not carry out their duties well. The Iraqis came forward for talks with our forces. The issue was that we should return to our previous position. Even though our forces proved that they were there before the cease-fire, they were misled in some way or another. They waited without any orders to fight. Night fell, and the Iraqis came and took them further down to talk with them and then our forces did not return. Even though the UN forces were informed of this, they have still not shown a suitable reaction. This is dangerous. It may result in our forces wanting to retaliate somewhere. I warn the mediation forces to be careful so that such problems do not arise. There were other cases when they advanced in some places. We said that from now on if something like this happens, we will retaliate.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi, during current negotiations in Geneva, the Iraqi regime has tried, in various ways, to slow down the pace of the talks, and it has put forth some claims on Arvandrud despite the 1975 Algiers pact. Also, the return of forces to international borders appears to have come up against a serious problem and the Iraqi forces continue to occupy Khosravi and Naft Shahr. How do you assess the future of the Geneva talks in view of Iraq's obstructionism?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Both before and after accepting the resolution we knew the nature of the Iraqis: It is a warmongering nature and if they do not feel something similar to a final defeat, they will not easily accept peace. We know that their claims are not sincere unless they are pressured by their mentors, or at least if the support of their mentors ends. During this period, what we thought about the Iraqis has been proven to be true. After our acceptance, we saw that it resorted to very extensive and impudent aggressions which were [word indistinct] in some cases. They were rebuffed. In the first step, they propounded the issue of direct talks which were not included in the resolution.

We removed this pretext from their hands. Recently, they have propounded the cleaning up of Shatt al-'Arab, Arvand Rud. Of course, we too want it cleaned up. We too want it to take place as soon as possible so that we can use the ports of Khorramshahr and Abadan. We do

not use Arvand Rud any less than the Iraqis do. Therefore, this is not a problem but a pretext when they say that a timetable should be set for the cleaning up. This, in itself, is a precondition that stems from bad faith. Obviously both we and they want this to be cleaned up, and it should be cleaned up in good time. There are some norms concerning this which have been clarified in the Algiers agreement on how it should take place. This is an obvious search for a pretext.

Bringing up the issue that shipping should be free in the Persian Gulf is something else. Naturally when there is no war going on no one will attack the others' ships. However, if there is a war then this cannot be. There is an international law on this at a time of cease-fire. What they are doing is bringing up pretexts. Maybe the Iraqis have a domestic problem and they want to solve this problem, or maybe their mentors dictate to them that it is not advisable for the war to end now. Maybe they have chimerical ideas that the Islamic Republic is ready to accept peace at any price, or maybe they want to gain concessions. There are some ambiguities for us.

At any rate, as we have said, we are serious in our peace and in our peace proposal, and will do our utmost to achieve this peace. However, we are also ready for defense. Fortunately, from what I saw today on the fronts and in my discussions with the commanders and units, our level of readiness at the fronts is extremely good. We are ready to defend, and I think that even if Iraq wants once again to display its warmongering nature as it did at the outset of the war, it will be extremely sorry because a question will arise. It will not be able to make peace-seeking claims. Their mentors, who are deceitful in character and who always alleged that they supported Iraq for peace and in order to prevent Iran's inflexibility, will not be able to make such claims any more.

Iraq's international position will be extremely weakened, and it will be very difficult to support Iraq. The problem that may have arisen with these pretexts then will not exist anymore. Our people will be united. The people understand that we have no other way but war. Therefore, whether Iraq accepts the resolution or not, we consider both cases as acceptable by us. However, we prefer that it accepts without any precondition or imposition, and that both sides implement the resolution.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi, my last question is on the Iraqi regime's intense chemical attacks on the Iraqi Kurds and the great calamities it has perpetrated. Large groups of Kurdish people without refuge have sought refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. What, in your excellency's opinion, are the reasons for these acts by Iraq? What objectives is it pursuing and how should these crimes by Iraq against the Kurds be stopped?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is nothing new. In the past, too, Iraq did the same thing to the same extent. Some months ago in the central area of Kurdistan and in the Qarabagh and Irbil regions it carried out chemical attacks on the same extensive scale. We gave refuge to thousands of people who were victims of this attack. A large number of people were killed there, and there was no one in Iraq to defend them. Now the same thing is happening, but since Iraq now has some peace of mind on the fronts, it has increased attacks on the Kurds.

At the time we were fighting, the Kurds enjoyed a certain amount of immunity, but now they are alone. Because we have accepted the cease-fire, we cannot carry out anything important deep within Iraqi territory apart from granting refuge to them. The world, of course, is paying very little attention to this. If the world inflicts pressures, it can stop Iraq. Iraq is not a free and independent country; it is truly dependent. Iraq is a country, the budget of which—the war budget of which—is dependent. If it does not recieve money and credits from others, it cannot do anything.

If Saudi Arabia and Kuwait do not help... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] Its roads are dependent. If either Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia close their doors, Iraq will be stifled. If they close their ports, it will be stifled. If the world wants to inflict pressures on Iraq through these countries and tell it to stop these crimes, it will certainly be able to. The United Nations, the Security Council, the neighbors can do this. Turkey can also do this to a large extent. Iraq's oil pipelines pass mainly through Turkey. Turkey today tolerates the burden of emigrants fleeing Iraq. I think that the world can inflict pressures on Iraq. We are doing this; we are inflicting pressures through the countries of the world so that they can seize the hand of this criminal and prevent so much oppression on people.

The other assistance that we can extend is to open the borders of our country to them so that they will come here to receive medical treatment and refuge. Of course, if the cease-fire is violated and the war flares up again, then we may be able to support them more. However, these are the supports that we are presently extending.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi, if you have any message for the dear people of our country, please go ahead.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Before my message, I should express my gratitude for the people's great sincerity, devotion, and commitment at this juncture. I am talking about what I have seen as far as the situation on the fronts is concerned. My message, in my capacity as the person in charge of the war and in charge of military affairs, is that it is because of our reliance on the people and because of our strength on the fronts—due to the presence of the people—that we can maintain a strong stand at the talks. This presence should continue. In other words, the level of presence that exists now on the fronts should continue for a period, the end of which we will announce.

The combatants should wait until they are replaced and then go back to their homes. The combatants who are waiting their turn should be attentive and replace those of their brothers who have completed their service. They should apply to the IRGC centers throughout the country and ensure their needs. Alertness by the combatants and the presence of the people on the front will guarantee that we will be able to gain our rights in the talks.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your explanations.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You are welcome.

Majlis Speaker Warns of Possible 'Reprisal'

LD0109185188 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 1 Sep 88

["Iraqi Ceasefire Violations Thinning Iranian Patience, Warns Hashemi-Rafsanjani"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—Acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday warned the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) on Iraqi violations of a U.N.-brokered ceasefire.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani after inspecting the frontlines said in an interview "We stress the Muslim combatants be fully ready for reprisal measures."

Adverting to a ceasefire violation in which Iraqi forces captured hundreds of Muslim combatants under the pretext of negotiations, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iranian forces may be forced to retaliate in another front. Therefore, he added, the U.N. observers should do their best to prevent the Iraqi regime from violating the armistice.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the people to be present at the fronts and maintain their vigilance towards the enemies' plots.

Musavi Says Strength Key to Success at Talks

LD0109173788 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today called on the Armed Forces to maintain their alertness and combat prowess, warning that any laxity on their part may tempt the enemy to commit new acts of mischief.

Premier Musavi, referring to the Iraqi regime's subversive efforts to hinder implementation of U.N. Resolution 598, noted the Armed Forces should know that Iran's success at the negotiating table depends on their military power on the battlefields.

Musavi made the remarks in his speech to a group of visiting ulema from Tehran Province here, where he also outlined the government's policy towards post-war reconstruction projects.

Both the government and Majlis (parliament) are busy drawing up the countyry's reconstruction plans, Musavi concluded.

Larijani, Soviet Ambassador Hold Consultations

LD0109201588 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador in Tehran Vladimir V. Gudev conferred with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani here today.

Talks were held at the meeting on the trend of Geneva peace talks for implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, regional issues as well as Tehran-Moscow relations.

The two sides announced readiness for convening the 11th session of the Tehran-Moscow joint economic commission to be held in Moscow shortly.

Larijani, French Envoy Discuss Geneva Talks

LD0209095988 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2, IRNA—The Geneva peace talks will be seriously endangered if any party unjustly tries to gain concessions, said a Foreign Ministry official here Thursday.

In a meeting with French ambassador in Tehran Christian Graeff, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani said the Geneva talks have entered a very sensitive stage.

If the peace talks advance in the framework of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the parties concerned are really sincere in the resolution, the U.N. chief has a good chance of success, he added.

In response, the French ambassador explaining his country's stance in relation with Resolution 598 announced, "France believes the Resolution (598) should be precisely carried out." Graeff voiced full support for the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar' efforts.

Mo'ayeri, Turkish Official Discuss Kurds

LD0109210288 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—Iran is seriously after a lasting peace in the region which can be achieved within the framework of Security Council Resolution 598, the

U.N. chief's implementation plan and the 1975 accord, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri told visiting Turkish deputy foreign minister today.

Mo'ayeri in a meeting with Nuzhet Kandemir here warned that any issue outside the above framework would only delay the ongoing Geneva peace talks.

The 1975 accord, registered at the United Nations, is the sole basis of solution of border disputes between Iran and Iraq, "and Iran will not step back from this accord," Mo'ayeri stressed.

On the plight of Kurds in northern Iraq and their taking refuge in Turkey, Mo'ayeri said the Islamic Republic is concerned over the Iraqi regime's measures especially its use of chemical weapons against Kurdish Muslims. "The Iraqi regime aims to exterminate its Kurdish population," he added.

In reply, Kandemir explained Turkey's viewpoints on the situation in Persian Gulf region, as well as on issues relevant to Cyprus, Afghanistan, Pakistan after the death of President Ziaul Haq and Iraqi attacks on Kurdish people in the northern parts of that country.

The two sides also stressed further expansion of mutual relations in all fields. Kandemir arrived here Tuesday night.

Besharati, SFRY Ambassador Discuss Geneva Talks
LD0109215888 Tehran IRNA in English 1959 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—Yugoslavian Ambassador Miro Zaric held talks with acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati on developments of the U.N.-sponsored Geneva peace talks, the NOn-Aligned Movement (NAM) as well as Tehran-Belgrade cooperation.

At the meeting Besharati announced, U.N. Security Council members should take necessary measures for preventing the Iraqi regime from hampering implementation of Resolution 598.

The Foreign MInistry official backing Iran-Yugoslavia political and international cooperation especially at the NAM, welcomed Yugoslav cooperation in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

The Yugoslavian envoy submitted to Besharati a written invitation from his country's president Lazar Mojsov for President 'Ali Khamene'i to visit Belgrade.

UN Observers Commander Tours Abadan
LD0109144488 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 1, IRNA—Commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq military observer group (UNIIMOG) Yugoslavia General Slavko Jovic today visited the southern port city of Abadan.

General Jovic, accompanied by a number of UNIIMOG officers based in this southern city, inspected ruins of houses, trade centers, government offices and streets in Abadan, destroyed or damaged during the neearly 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war.

Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Outlined
LD0109115088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] The Iraqi regime is continuing to obstruct the implementation of the UN Security Council's Resolution No 598. Over the last 3 days, the Iraqi regime has initiated several acts which violate the rules of the cease-fire, the most important of these acts are as follows:

According to the latest reports, the number of our troops which have been captured by the Iraqi regime's forces since the imposition of the cease-fire has reached 752. Furthermore, yesterday between 0800 [0430 GMT] and 1100 they fired twenty mortar shells at the general region of Oshnoviyeh. The UN observers located in Saqqez were informed about this incident. Since 2000 yesterday, a number of Iraqi forces north of Oshnoviyeh advanced toward the Iranian forces' positions inside the borders. The UN observers were immediately informed about this.

Furthermore, at 0950 30 August, the Iraqi forces on the Dopazah and Golpar Heights on the Sar Dasht border strip carried out extensive engineering and road-building activities and strengthened their barricades inside Iranian territory. On the same day, the five-member UN observers team noticed Iraqi regime violations of the cease-fire rules on the foothills of the Dopazah Heights. On 30 Aug the Iraqis occupied Banavand village in the Baneh area, Hasanabad in the Marivan area, and (Shabikhan) hill.

On 29 August, 18 Iraqi trucks loaded with ammunition and logistical material entered the general region of Piranshahr. On the same day, four Iraqi planes were seen flying from the northwest to the southeast of Faqqeh axis. According to another report at 2310 on 29 August, the Iraqi forces fired a red warning shot and a round of air vollies in the general region of the west.

Furthermore, on the afternoon of 28 August, a number of Iraqi elements together with some armed members of the defunct Democrat Party crossed into Iranian territory in the Sar Dasht region and fired shots. This was confirmed by the UN forces in the Sar Dasht region.

900 Iraqi Kurdish Families Request Asylum

LD0109110488 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Sept. 1, IRNA—900 Iraqi Kurdish families have arrived in Iran through northwestern borders in the past two days and taken asylum.The refugees mainly women, children and elderly men have been temporarily settled in Piranshahr and Orumiyeh.

The Kurds were forced to leave their homes due to recent heavy shelling of the Kurdish populated cities in northern Iraq by the Baghdad regime forces.

Out of the batch 600 arrived in Iran through Piranshahr and the remaining 300 via Turkey. According to informed sources another group of 900 Kurds who have fled their homes are on their way to Iran under constant bombardment of Iraqi forces.

Following Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on July 18, the Iraqi regime has increased its military attacks against the oppostion Kurds in northern Iraq heavily shelling the area and deploying chemical weapons.

Commentary Addresses Need for Continued Alertness

LD3108142688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Political commentary: "The Need for Popular Forces To Be Ready at the Front"]

[Text] At a meeting yesterday with the president and Cabinet ministers, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made important remarks on the war and associated topics, in which he called upon everyone in the nation and the country's officials to remain vigilant and careful on current developments.

In his first speech since Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, his eminence the imam warned the nation and those in charge in the country to be vigilant about the situation and to bear in mind that the war has not ended yet and we are still at war with the superpowers and their surrogates—necessitating combat readiness at the war fronts.

Stressing that the superpowers and Saddam Husayn have received a blow from Islam and that they see Islam as a powerful and firm obstacle to their greedy designs, the imam said that for this reason they will continue their evil plots and pursue their own objectives in the peace talks. That is why the combatants of Islam, with 8 years of war experience and struggle, who have, along with the nation, willingly endured hardship and difficulties, should continue their readiness at the fronts and maintain the fronts with their presence.

This is extremely important because, by implementing their specific plans and with the help of their hireling domestic agents' propaganda, the world devourers are trying to approach the issue of war and peace in various and contradictory ways and expunge from the minds of the Islamic ummah the idea of the need to be present at the fronts.

In present circumstances, attention to and focusing on the imam's remarks yesterday about the issues of the war underlines the fact that readiness and presence at the fronts continues to be a necessity, for in light of the existing obstructionist moves one can push forward the current process of peace talks in a healthy and firm manner only if diplomatic moves are supported by the readiness and extensive presence of forces at the front. For this reason, the mobilization forces, the fighters, and all patriotic and Islam-loving Iranians must continue their constant presence at the fronts.

The departure of fighting forces for the front from all over the country in recent days is eloquent testimony to the fact that the Islamic ummah are aware of the plots of the enemies of Islam and the enemy's peace-seeking claims, that they have risen firmly and powerfully to counter them, that they will never pay attention to foreign propaganda and rumors spread by the arrogance's domestic agents, and that they regard such rumors as a mere concoction in the preception of foreigners.

The Islamic ummah are fully aware of the fact that the constant presence of fighters and the departure of a powerful army of Islam for the fronts can be a firm support for diplomatic-military moves in the international political arena, that this stage of the revolution requires greater alertness and care, and that global arrogance's plots are more dangerous and complicated than in the past.

Lack of attention to this matter will help the superpowers fulfill their dreams, which were not fulfilled during the 8-year war. For this reason alertness, care, and presence at the front are the decisive and neutralizing factors against the plots facing Iran's divine system.

Seminar on Studying Economic Losses Opens

LD0109035788 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—A seminar to evaluate the economic losses inflicted on Iran by the Iraqi-imposed war opened here Wednesday with a speech by Minister of Plan and Budget Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani.

In part of his inaugural speech, Zanjani underlined the importance of a precise evaluation of the war losses for presentation to international bodies. Participants at the seminar are to review efforts made so far to assess the economic losses caused by the imposed war.

Article 8 of U.N. Resolution 598 calls for war reparations after due determination by an expert U.N. team.

KEYHAN Views Economic Reconstruction

PM2908104988 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Aug 88 p 15

[Editorial By A. Hoseyn-Panah: "Strategy of Rebuilding Iran's Economy"]

[Excerpts] The reconstruction of Iran's economy is the topic of analysis these days by both domestic and foreign experts. A flood of offers and plans has come from imperialist countries, reactionary countries, and multinational companies wanting a chance to take part in the reconstruction of war-torn areas. Domestically, there have been varying ideas by economic managers and experts with regard to the reconstruction issue. The importance of this at this point in time in the history of the revolution is such that it can be described as a path between survival and destruction. If, at this stage of the revolution's history, plans are put into action for the country's economy based on Islamic and revolutionary principles as well as national needs, one could be optimistic about the revolution's survival. If, on the other hand, the present trend of our history is mixed with the paths taken by imperialist and capitalist circles of the world, it must be said that the Iranian Revolution would then face the most serious threat so far of deviation.

The aim of economic reconstruction must be one of broad policies based on the framework of a strategy of expansion, in other words, the reconstruction of Iran's economy, not just of the war-torn areas. We also must reject the idea that by reconstruction we mean a normalization of the economic situation or providing goods in plentiful quantity. That is not the case at all. Iran is in similar conditions to other revolutionary societies and it is necessary to follow a program of austerity, perhaps for years to come, after the war and after the revolution.

"Economic reconstruction" does not have a clear or defined meaning in the terms being discussed now. The central point of these discussions is based on the fact that Iran will have an "open" economy after the end of the imposed war. This trend of thought believes that some of the money spent on the war now would be released to be spent in other economic fields.

The sources on which Iran can depend for economic openness are: first, the injection and attraction of foreign investment; and second, an increase in oil revenue either by an increase in the oil prices or in Iran's OPEC quota.

There are several reasons why the last example will not work. There is an oil glut in the market, increased production, a desperate need for producing countries to produce more crude, and resistance on the part of the Western countries and Japan to any increase in the price of oil. If Iran ever decided to produce more than its OPEC quota, competition would increase among member countries, which would cause prices to drop to below 5 pounds sterling per barrel. In any case, the establishment of relative calm in the shipping lines and the end of the imposed war will considerably lower oil prices. On the other hand, the West will try to make Iran dependent on foreign investments rather than have the country increase its own internal revenue and hard currency reserves based on domestic sources. For the reasons mentioned and keeping in mind other realities, it seems highly unlikely that Iran will increase its oil revenue too much in the next 5 years. With regard to attracting foreign investment, which is possible to a limited extent, there is, however, much to be said.

All in all, after a war or a revolution, a country's economic foundations are damaged. There are two kinds of thought on what has been termed "economic reconstruction." One group thinks that the country's economy should be based on the goals for which there was a war or revolution. This group thinks of economic recovery as a natural continuation of revolution in another shape and relies mostly on existing capabilities in a way that would provide for the revolution's independence and growth.

Another group believes the revolution and war have brought about many pressures on the people and the country's financial resources and that afterward there should be an open economy. If this openness is not possible by solely relying on domestic means, then one must attract foreign investment.

It seems that under our country's present conditions, these two points of view have been presented alongside one another. Forgetting these two ideas, during both the Islamic Revolution and the war, the West countered our people's will for 8 years and fought against us. Looking at this in technical terms alone, there is also no excuse to invite the West to take part in the reconstruction project. If we believe that, for the past 8 years, the West, particularly the United States, fought alonside Iraq against Iran, why should we give bonus points to the West in the reconstruction plans?

Neither does the expert experience of other countries provide a positive outlook for the West's intervention in war contruction in underdeveloped countries. One limited and incorrect example is Japan. Common belief is that the Japanese economy was destroyed during World War II and then rebuilt by domestic hard work and foreign investment. That is not the case at all. Japan had a century of experience in technology before the war started. [passage omitted]

One clear example for Iran is Egypt. The West is only ready to deal with Iran the way it did with Egypt. The two countries have similar geographical-political importance, similar economic circumstances and population, and both have oil. After the October war, Egypt decided to cooperate with the West for its reconstruction. [passage omitted]

At the start, the people of Egypt supported the open door policy, hoping it would lead to economic comfort. After several years, they poured into the streets of Cairo and shouted slogans expressing their displeasure at the policy. Iran's economists should stay away from the Japanese example and should remember Egypt as the result of cooperation with the West for economic reconstruction.

Khomeyni Receives 'Slap in Face' From Iraq

LD0109105288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The remarks made today by Khomeyni in Jamaran are interesting from several points of view. One of these is that by entrusting the administrative affairs of the country during the period of reconstruction to the Council for Ascertaining the Interests of the Regime, he has placed this council in a position to succeed him in practice, and in this respect, he completely limited the role of Montazeri after his own death. From another point of view, the announcement that the traders are free to import goods was a defeat for the faction within the ruling mullah circles who were endeavoring to administer the country on the basis of the socialist (?system), and to allow the government to control the country's affairs.

Khomeyni—who was speaking with a weak voice, and like a sick person—deserted, in practice, the hardline faction within the regime, consisting of Mohtashami, Kho'iniha, Meshkini, and their allies and lackeys. By emphasizing that traders should have more powers and that trade should be free, he showed that not only has he received a slap in the face by Iraq, lost face, and accepted defeat, but that he has also experienced defeat in the face of the traders and those who support free trade, and has surrendered to their demands. Khomeyni has repeatedly said in the past that all these tasks have to be carried out by the government. But he has given this up and has finally surrendered to the demands of a group among the traders.

Briefs

Military Training Continues

Mr Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, in an interview with the Central News Unit in Semnan, stated that more than 3 million persons have received military training throughout the country. He also said: The end of war and the implementation of peace does not mean the end of military training. We still train groups of people to be prepared, and organize, classify and code them. Regarding the continuous dispatch of the volunteer forces to the fronts, he said: We request the people of Iran, especially the Islamic combatants, that just as they have previously filled the fronts, and until the day the country's military officials announce an end to this need, to continue their movement to the fronts. [Text] [*LD0109032888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 88*]

Television Stations Operational

The second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, using a satellite transmitter with a transmitting power of 50 watts and with effective radiating power of 30 watts, has become operational in Chah Bahar and Konarak. With the operation of the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the linking of the first network with the province's network, residents in the Chah Bahar and Konarak regions and residents in nearby villages will be able to view the second network programs on Channel 9. Also, the Lavan Island television relay station with 50 watts output has become operational, thus enabling residents on Lavan Island and in adjacent villages to view the programs of the first network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Vision of Bandar-e 'Abbas on UHF band Channel 21. [Summary] [*NC2908080988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Aug 88*]

Rise in Annual Imports

Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Head of Iran's customs administration Mahmud Ardekani said here today that over 19 million tons of goods were imported last year (ended March 20), showing an increase of 30 percent compared to the previous year's imports. Over two million passengers left and entered the country last year, said Ardekani adding the figure increased by 18 percent compared to that of the year before. Ardekani who is also deputy minister of economic and financial affairs said the number of passengers who entered Iran during the first four months of the current year (started March 21) stood at 221,059 of whom 40,923 were foreigners. Of the 227,901 passengers leaving Iran over the same period 186,250 were Iranians, he concluded. [Text] [*LD2908020488 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 28 Aug 88*]

Pakistan

Afghan Planes Bomb 2 Villages Near Peshawar

BK0109153488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Five Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace today. They penetrated up to 80 km into Pakistani territory and dropped bombs on two villages at Wardhak near Peshawar. According to initial information, 1 person was killed and 11 others were wounded, and 5 houses were destroyed in the bombing raid.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office, and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack. He was asked to tell the Kabul authorities that they will be held solely responsible for any consequences if such attacks are not stopped.

Further Details on Bombing

BK0109125688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 1 (AFP)—Six Afghan planes bombed a village near an Afghan refugee camp in Pakistani territory Thursday, killing one person and wounding 23, police and residents said.

The planes, flying at low altitude, penetrated about 80 kilometers (50 miles) into Pakistani airspace and bombarded the village of Dallazak, 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Peshawar where Afghan resistance groups are based in the dawn raid, officials said.

The planes dropped two bombs on the area which is near the Afghan refugee camp of Adizai, eyewitnesses told journalists visiting the bombed area.

Five houses were destroyed in the raid which took place when the villagers were preparing breakfast, they said. A farmer out ploughing with his tractor was killed in the raid, they said. All the casualties were Pakistanis, they added. Doctors said that 23 people had been admitted to hospital.

Earlier reports had said the planes had bombed the Adizai camp.

In Islamabad the Foreign Office immediately summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and handed him a strong protest, official sources said.

He was also warned of "serious consequences" if there were any repetition of the incident.

The sources said a formal complaint was also lodged with the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) overseeing the implementation of the April 14 Geneva accord which paved the way for the current withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Kabul government planes killed 13 people in a series of attacks on refugee camps near Miran Shah 300 kilometres (190 miles) southwest of Peshawar in early August.

Pakistani fighters on August 4 shot down a Soviet aircraft which had attacked refugee camps in Pakistani territory. The pilot was captured after ejecting, and was handed over to Soviet representatives in Islamabad on August 16.

The raid came on the same day that the new Soviet ambassador to Pakistan presented his credentials to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad.

Ambassador Victor Yakunin also met with Mr. Ishaq Khan who took over after the death of President Mohammed Ziaul Haq in a plane crash on August 17, and discussed matters of mutual interest, officials said.

He replaced Abdul Rehman Vizirov who had been appointed Communist Party chief in Soviet Azarbayjan.

U.S. Ambassador Robert B. Oakley who also presented his papers to Mr. Khan Thursday in a statement assured his country's "unshakable commitment" to Pakistan's independence and territorial integrity.

Cockpit Crew Reported at Fault in Crash

BK0209032088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Sep 88

[Text] Reports from Pakistan say that investigators inquiring into the crash of General Ziaul Haq's plane feel that it was the cockpit crew that was at fault. They rule out a missile attack.

The AIR special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, reporting from Karachi says most of these reports have no official confirmation. Experts from some other countries, including France, are also being called in to assist the inquiry. A leading newspaper says that the fault was that of the cockpit crew. Their personal leanings and lives have been probed. It adds that it could also not be proved that a bomb had been planted in the plane. According to other reports, some parts of the ill-fated plane have been taken to the United States for further investigation.

Justice Minister Defends State of Emergency

BK0109163388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] In the 17th session of the Senate in Islamabad this evening, the acting chairman, Syed Fazal Agha, announced a panel of presiding officers for the current session. They are Mr Mahmud Ahmad Minto, Yaqubzada Bahrawar Said, and Mir Abdur Rahman Jamali.

The acting chairman also read out a message of the secretary general of the Interparliamentary Union expressing deep condolences on the tragic death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and others in the air crash near Bahawalpur. He also conveyed sympathies on behalf of the Interparliamentary Union to members of the bereaved families.

The house was assured tonight that free, fair, and impartial elections will be held in the country as scheduled and there should be no fear on that account. The assurance was given by the justice minister while speaking on identical privilege motions by three members about the promulgation of emergency and formation of emergency council in the wake of the air crash near Bahawalpur on the 17th of last month in which, among others, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq lost his life.

The justice minister recalled the threat faced by the country in the wake of the air crash which necessitated the promulgation of emergency and creation of the emergency council. He said the country was facing a

calamity of national character and grave doubts have been raised by the incident. Prior to this, there have been threats by some foreign powers and the circumstances prima facie clearly indicated an act of sabotage and conspiracy. These circumstances could also have led to disturbances within the country.

Paper Appreciates U.S. Assurance of Support

BK2808140788 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 22 Aug 88 p 10

[Editorial: "Reaffirmation of U.S. Support"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz, told newsmen at the American Center in Islamabad that he had assured the Pakistani president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, that his country would remain fully committed to its pledge to safeguard Pakistan's independence and territorial integrity and that the United States was ready to provide any assistance that Pakistan needed at this time of grief and sorrow. After the accidental death of President Ziaul Haq, a question had arisen in certain minds whether the United States would continue to provide aid and assistance to Pakistan in the event of a Soviet aggression in the same manner as it did during the late president's time.

Such a question also arose because, according to certain quarters, President Ziaul Haq's Afghanistan policy was the result of his individual thinking, although the fact is that Ziaul Haq's Afghan policy was a national policy and national policies are not changed with the change of governments or the personalities in power.

In the United States, either of the two political parties secures or loses power; in Britain and France also, several parties remain in power, but whatever may be the severity of their internal differences, their coming to power or losing it does not affect the continuity of the permanent foreign policies of those countries. In India, too, the changes in governments do not affect that country's hegemonistic and anti-Pakistani policies.

However, George Shultz's assurance has cleared the doubts and suspicions about the fact that Pakistan's Afghan policy will remain intact and that Islamabad will continue to receive Washington's moral and material support in this regard.

The general experience with the United States is that Washington does not prove to be a sincere friend. This is borne out by the fact that Pakistan has suffered major setbacks during its two wars with India. In the 1965 war, the United States imposed restrictions even on the supply of military spare parts, and even after the 1971 war and in the early years of the Afghanistan problem, Pakistan was not receiving any aid from the United States. However, later, the United States and the free world extended support to Pakistan in view of its just and principled position on Afghanistan, thus helping in the waging of a successful and historic war of resistance in Afghanistan.

This resulted in the withdrawal of the Soviet troops under the Geneva accords, although it is evident from the history of Soviet expansionism that it has never before been driven back in this manner. In this way, the threats to Pakistan's security and national independence have been removed, although the Afghan problem has not reached its logical conclusion. The late president had expected that the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops would lead to the formation of a representative government of the Afghan mujahidin in Kabul. After Ziaul Haq's death, everything seems to be hanging in the balance.

Given this background, George Shultz assured full, timely assistance to Pakistan and also said that the members of the U.S. delegation had come to Pakistan not only to pay homage to the departed leader, but also to renew the pledge that the bilateral relations would not only be maintained but also strengthened and that Islamabad would continue to receive U.S. aid in the future irrespective of the results of the upcoming U.S. elections.

The categorical announcement by the United States to continue to give unconditional and uninterrupted aid to Pakistan will provide a new sense of confidence and encouragement to Pakistan in this delicate situation. Even though the time has not come to say "thank you America," the United States has fulfilled its obligations as a friend.

JANG Stresses Unity Following Ziaul Haq's Death

BK2908093588 Lahore JANG in Urdu 21 Aug 88 p 10

[Editorial: "A Time of Trial"]

[Text] The Senate chairman, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has assumed the office of the acting president as provided by the Constitution and has taken the necessary steps to keep the governmental affairs running after the unexpected demise of President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. However, it is quite natural that the void is still felt following the sudden disappearance of a forceful personality who held power for 11 long years. With the sudden death of President Ziaul Haq the nation is once again confronted with a difficult test. The late president under a presidential proclamation on 29 May had dissolved the federal cabinet and the National Assembly, and announced fresh elections. Initially, most of the country's political parties hailed the president's step.

But at a later stage, a string of political arguments and contentions followed on the question of holding elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the assembly and on holding elections on a party basis or otherwise. A few weeks later, President Ziaul Haq announced that

elections would be held on 16 November. But again, he did not pay attention to the demands for party-based elections, and announced that elections would be held on a nonparty basis. This prompted a series of criticisms and objections by the country's political parties. In the beginning, it was the war of statements. Later, some political circles announced their intention to challenge the president's ruling in court.

So the situation following President Ziaul Haq's death was that while elections were scheduled for 16 November, there was no clear indication if they would be party-based. The assurances given by Ghulam Ishaq Khan while addressing the nation, following high-level consultations after taking oath of office, that everything would be done according to the Constitution undoubtedly would be termed as a favorable addition to the chapter of our country's political history. The fact that the process of the transition of power went smoothly and in accordance with the Constitution at such a sensitive and delicate stage is not insignificant. There was no disruption in keeping the affairs of the governments at the federal and provincial levels running as well.

Although the state of emergency was declared in a crisis situation in the country, the people's fundamental rights and the jurisdiction of courts remained unaffected. Probably this is why there were no strong protests, other than limited and reserved criticisms against the emergency decree. Most of the country's political leaders have assured of their wholehearted, and in some cases unconditional, support to control the internal situation. Promises to work unitedly for the sake of the country's security and national integrity under this delicate situation are being made. This certainly heralds the emergence of a healthy and encouraging tradition.

However, as some quarters have hinted, a proposal has also been made to form a national government for holding elections, in addition to the demand for party-based elections. This indicates that there are still some issues that might come up in the future and lead to an unforeseen situation. In fact, as we have mentioned earlier, the nation is undergoing a state of overwhelming grief and time is needed to overcome this. Therefore, it would be premature to say anything at this stage about how the nation will react to a changed situation. In view of the intense shock and grief expressed everywhere in the country over the president's tragic death, not only a perceptible change in the country's internal situation is likely when the real causes of the president's plane crash are revealed, but the outcome of the investigations may change the course of our regional and international relations as well.

All these will necessarily affect the atmosphere of elections and their results. Similarly, the sudden departure of President Ziaul Haq from among us may also lead to the restructuring of interrelations between political parties. The positions of support or opposition to any issue or any person are also likely to change. There are some external factors also that should be taken into account in view of the present delicate situation in the country. At present, we as a nation are facing a very sensitive situation and a difficult time.

We have to successfully overcome this trial and prove to the world that our nation is capable of facing the toughest test with determination and courage. And we can do it only when the government, the political leaders, the intellectuals, and each person realize the delicacy of the situation and their responsibilities, and display unreserved cooperation and integrity to fulfill them. We hope that we will be able to face this test courageously and deal with the situation.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Reportedly Receiving Weapons 'From Abroad'

BK0109144188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] New Delhi, Sep 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group, which is fighting some 49,000 Indian troops there, is reportedly receiving weapons from abroad, Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh said Thursday.

"There are reports of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) getting arms from foreign sources," Mr. Natwar Singh said in a statement in the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament.

He said the government was taking action "to prevent arms from reaching the LTTE," but gave no further details.

The LTTE has been waging a bloody guerrilla war against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's north and east under a 1987 peace accord that sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign spearheaded by the group. The LTTE has repudiated the pact and refused to surrender arms.

On August 3, the Indian High Commission (Embassy) in Colombo accused unnamed outside agencies of backing the LTTE and arming with it with an anti-aircraft system to fight the Indians.

The LTTE denied the charge, saying a sophisticated surface-to-air missile seized from it had come from New Delhi a year ago. The LTTE waged its separatist war from southern India until the peace pact was signed.

'Terrorists' Arrested; Mines Seized in Northeast

BK0109132588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1236 GMT 1 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—A 68-year-old woman transporting a large consignment of detonators was apprehended yesterday at Elephant Pass in

northern Sri Lanka by the Central Police Reserve Force. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the woman who was in possession of 1100 detonators was travelling from Jaffna to Trincomalee. They also said that one 2" [as received] mortar and one hand grenade were recovered by the IPKF yesterday from Vembadi girl's school.

A report from Mullaittivu states that an armed gang robbed from the residence of Mr. Sachchithanadan last Sunday cash and jewelery to the value of Rs. 115,800.

Two suspects who were allegedly involved in transporting explosives in a boat Sunday were yesterday apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy detachment at Talaimannar.

Meanwhile, latest reports state that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] raided LTTE bases at Nittikaikulam and Trincomalee today and recovered large quantities of Claymore mines, improvised explosives devices and ammunition. Two hardcore terrorists Selvarajah and Suresh were captured at Trincomalee. Six terrorists were apprehended at Mankerni.

Indian Troops Capture LTTE Base Camp

BK0109161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force [PKF] has successfully smashed the main base camp and the tactical headquarters of the LTTE in a major operation in Nithikaikulam area. This has paved the way for initiating election process in the northern and eastern provinces.

After 15 days of fierce fighting in the Alampil jungle, the PKF men led by paracommandos captured the base camp and scores of satellite camps of the militants in the operation. This is considered to be the biggest after the battle for Jaffna last September.

AIR Correspondent Sabastian Robert, who visited the scene of action, reports that the peacekeeping force had to tack their way to the jungle to avoid the heavily booby trapped foot trails before storming the base camp. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including sophisticated weapons and food and medicines, were seized from the camp.

Gunman Shoot, Wound Kandy Intelligence Chief

BK0109123888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1208 GMT 1 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sep 1 (LANKAPUVATH)—The officer-in-charge of the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) Kandy was shot at and wounded by a gunman at Gampola, this morning.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that Inspector Devasiri residing at Keselwatte Road, Gampola, was walking along the rail track this morning on his way to work at 0820 hours (local time) when the gunman aged about 22 years shot at him with a revolver wounding the police inspector in the head.

Inspector Devasiri was rushed to the Kandy hospital and was reported to be out of danger.

'Terrorist' Shot Dead in Galle District

BK0109132888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1307 GMT 1 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—One southern terrorist described by police as being a member of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] (?was shot) dead in a shootout with the police at Batapola in the Meetiyagoda police area in the Galle District last night. Police told LANKAPUVATH that a squad of policemen led by the officer in charge of the Meetiyagoda police station was on mobile patrol in a jeep about eight o'clock last night when they were fired at. The policemen had counterattacked killing one terrorist and wounding one other. One shotgun was seized by the police. The other 4 terrorists who were also armed had fled.

4 Killed by 'Southern Terrorists' in Hambantota

BK0209114788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1123 GMT 2 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Four men including a member of a gramodaya mandalaya [village council] have been killed and two others seriously wounded in separate attacks by southern terrorists. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that an unidentified armed gang had abducted last Wednesday 4 persons, Sirisena, Dayananda, Tilakasiri and Upali from their homes in the Angunukolapelassa police area in Sri Lanka's southern province district of Hambantota. Sirisena and Dayananda were found dead with stab injuries. The other two, Tilakasiri and Upali, who had been seriously injured, have been admitted to hospital.

A report from the Hambantota District states that unidentified gunmen shot dead H.G. Prematileke, a member of the gramodaya mandalaya at Kadurupokuna in the Tangalle police area Tuesday and I.D. Ratnasiri of Kekirigaskanda in the Uragaha police area.

Indian Defense Minister's Statement Ridiculed

BK0109135188 Colombo SUN in English
25 Aug 88 p 7

[Editorial: "That's Incredible"]

[Text] Indian Defence Minister K. C. Pant literally let the cat out of the bag in Kanpur last week when he said that the decision to send the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] to Sri Lanka was in effect to safeguard India's own security interests.

Pant did of course not hesitate to underline the fact that the deployment of Indian troops was done at the invitation of the Sri Lanka government. Yet according to reports published here and in India, the Defence Minister emphasised that the invitation was accepted 'as the entry of any other power might have turned against India's security interests'.

Pant is obviously not making wild claims. He is regarded as a pragmatic man with a high sense of responsibility and openly dedicated to ensure the fulfillment of the pledges made in the Indo-Lanka agreement.

Yet, his rather blunt revelation to Congress-I volunteers at a public meeting in Kanpur last week provides good reason for us in Sri Lanka to view the Indian adventure here with utmost seriousness.

Just as much as India wishes to safeguard her security interests from any alien intervention or influence, Sri Lanka an equally sovereign and an equally nonaligned and an equally democratic nation must necessarily have the same privilege.

Or do the decision-makers in New Delhi think that Sri Lanka's sovereignty and integrity are either disposable or can be bartered for the sake of gaining their own selfish and hegemonial objectives?

Even the most xenophobic elements in India could not have had fears of any superpower entry into Sri Lanka which would have endangered India's security and sovereignty.

The two big powers were more interested in cultivating India's friendship than dilly-dallying with Sri Lanka.

Besides, Sri Lanka was certainly not interested in having them on our soil. Perhaps a couple of over-enthusiastic politicos may have made some rather naive suggestions. But India with the super-intelligence outfits would have known how credible they were.

On the other hand half a dozen or so military advisers hired to train our soldiers in anti-guerrilla know-how could not have basically threatened India's security.

But as Mr. Pant seems to uphold, India was worried about alien threats to her from our shores.

But it could well be a ruse to compel Sri Lanka to accept Indian patronage in resolving the ethnic crisis which was fuelled and engineered by various Indian elements.

However much they deny geo-political motivations, New Delhi cannot hide the fact that the Tamil terrorists were nurtured, trained and beefed up with weaponry with compliments of those in India, to wage war of attrition against Sri Lanka. India cannot deny that it tried to overawe Sri Lanka with its incursionary adventures shortly before the peace deal was worked out.

Sri Lanka decided to accept its hand of friendship and accord only when it had no other alternative, as the Indian trained terrorists were about to use the SAM [surface-to air missile] weaponry in their fight against our fledgling military.

Therefore, the claims made now about Sri Lanka being a threat to India's own security is not only unfair but incredible. The factual position today is exactly the opposite.